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# ARAB TIMES



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Arab Times wishes a Merry Christmas to our readers

## Stop it! - US, Paris say in calls for intervention



A man raises his hand while lying down with other Romanians to protect themselves from gunfire during fights. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Embassy in Kuwait switches loyalty

KUWAIT, Dec. 24, (Kuna): The Romanian ambassador to Kuwait today declared his and the entire embassy's allegiance to the Council of National Salvation of Romania.

In a statement to Kuna, the Ambassador, Gheorghe Serbanescu said: "We declare our full support to any action which is for the benefit of the Romanian people."

He added that the embassy staff supports any action that can assure safety and tranquility of Romanian people and which "can meet its endeavour for peace, prosperity and welfare and which underlines its dignity, its noble national virtues and ideals and which can strengthen the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of our country."

More than 20 Romanian embassies in various countries had so far supported the new Romanian leadership that ousted President Nicolae Ceausescu and declared a set of reforms.

The Romanian ambassador to Cairo, Ion Angelescu, today called Ceausescu a "murderer" and Egypt said it supported the new government in Bucharest and would send Romanians medical aid.

Following a meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, Angelescu told reporters in Romanian which was translated to Arabic and then English.

"The former regime told us that they (demonstrations) were imperialist acts but the recent events have proved that they only reflect the people's opinion of the murderer Ceausescu."

"The people revolted for the establishment of democracy and there have been thousands of deaths," Angelescu said.

Abdel Meguid said that Egypt had decided to send medical aid to Romania.

"We have diplomatic relations with Romania as a state, regardless of the ruling regime," Abdel Meguid said. "We are following the developments which will bring democracy and freedom to the Romanian people. Egypt, as a democratic country, support this."

### Clearing difficult debts

ON the closure of the difficult credit clearing programme (DCCP) the Council of Ministers reviewed a draft resolution, in compliance with the report of the joint economic committee concerning activation of the national economy and boosting effectiveness of the DCCP.

The DCCP would be applicable to those clients whose debts had been classified as irregular until Sept 30, 1989, provided all other terms of the DCCP are applicable.

The finance minister is entrusted to co-ordinate with the Central Bank for setting a closing date for the DCCP in a manner that would secure implementing the programme by Jan 31, 1990.

(See Page 9)

**Weather**

FAIR weather with light variable wind.

State of sea: Slight

High water: 11.30 am, 9.00 pm

Low water: 5.00 am, 3.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.40 am

Sunset: 4.50 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 30°C 86°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 35 per cent

Ahmad: 54 per cent

Falaka: 75 per cent

### Attack on TV station Street fighting in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Dec. 24, (Agencies): Street fighting and deadly sniper fire gripped the Romanian capital as attacks by deposed President Nicolae Ceausescu's loyalists pushed the estimated three-day death toll to more than 5,000.

"They are devils," said Bishop Nifon of Bucharest, as desperate security men, driven from the national Parliament, fired up the hill at the 300-year-old Romanian Orthodox cathedral.

**Romania In Agony**  
Pages 10 and 11

### Gorby Time's man of decade

NEW YORK, Dec. 24, (AP): Mikhail Gorbachev, whose political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union sparked a revolution that shattered communist control of eastern Europe, was named man of the decade by Time magazine yesterday.

"Somehow confining our choice to 1989 seemed inadequate, and thus we named Gorbachev man of the decade," the editor of the US weekly news-magazine said.

The Soviet president, previously named time's man of the year in 1987, was chosen because he is "the force behind the most momentous events of the '80s and because what he has already done will almost certainly shape the future," Time said.

The only precedent for such a choice by the magazine was its selection of Winston Churchill as man of the half-century in 1949.

"This year, as world attention recoiled from the stirrings of democracy in the USSR to the action in Beijing and the peaceful revolts in eastern Europe, it became clear that we were witnessing a sequence of events that began well before 1989 and whose impact would extend into the next decade, perhaps the next century," the magazine said.

The magazine said Gorbachev "has accelerated history, making possible the end of one of its most intractable episodes, the imposition of a cruel and unnatural order on hundreds of millions of people."

Gorbachev becomes only the fourth non-American designated twice by the magazine. One was Churchill (1940 and 1949), the others were Soviet leader Josef Stalin (1939 and 1942) and China's Deng Xiaoping (1978 and 1985).

Time has been naming a man of the year since 1927, choosing the "person who, for better or worse, has had the most impact on the year's events." The first award went to aviator Charles Lindbergh last year's winner was earth as planet of the year.

The street fighting in Bucharest was some of the worst Europe had seen since World War II, rivaling the violence during the 1956 Soviet-led invasion of Hungary to crush an anti-Stalinist revolt.

At Bucharest, emergency hospital doctors who have not slept in three days said they had treated 2,000 civilians since Thursday, a fraction of the city total. By midday today, 90 bodies had arrived at the morgue, one of many in Bucharest.

No one was keeping track of totals, but the East German news (Continued on Page 11)



### Yang lauds Kuwait ties Trade talks begin

KUWAIT, Dec. 24, (Agencies): Chinese President Yang Shangkun and accompanying delegation arrived here this afternoon from Abu Dhabi on a three-day official visit to Kuwait.

He was welcomed at the airport by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, ministers, governors, dean of the diplomatic corps and a number of senior officials.

The Chinese leader is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Finance Minister Wang Biaoqian, deputy foreign minister, deputy chief of economic relations and foreign trade and a number of other senior officials.

They were expected to discuss economic matters, as well as the turmoil in Romania, the situation in the Gulf and the role China can play as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in spurring stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks as well as the Arab-Israeli peace process, officials said.

In an arrival statement, Yang expressed pleasure for being in Kuwait on a goodwill state visit at the invitation by the Amir.

He expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the Amir and extended sincere wishes and greetings of the Chinese people to the friendly people of Kuwait.

The Chinese leader commended accomplishments of the Kuwaiti people under the leadership of the Amir and said the people of Kuwait have exerted tremendous efforts in defending their national independence and sovereignty.

The friendly Kuwaiti people, under the leadership of HH the Amir, have also achieved outstanding accomplishments regarding wise investment of resources, development of its national economy and raising the standard of living of the people," Yang said.

He hoped progress and prosperity for Kuwait, stating that the Chinese and Kuwaiti people were linked by "traditional bonds of friendship" since establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1971.

(Continued on Page 9)

**DAY BY DAY**

IT is said that maids are maltreated by their employers and they receive "special type of maltreatment." It is also said that some of these maids after being maltreated in this "special way" are deported, when the employer or the boss goes to the police and accuses his maid of doing something she didn't really do.

The employer immediately cancels the residence permit and the poor maid, who committed no mistake except to resist the vicious attempts of the boss, is deported.

Before cancelling the residence permit, a thorough investigation should be made to ensure that these maids are not victimised or deprived of their rights.

We simply ask for the formation of a body to receive complaints of such type of maids to ensure that justice is done.

**Zahed Matar**

### Soviet deputies rap Afghan invasion House admits Hitler-Stalin secret protocol on Baltics

MOSCOW, Dec. 24, (UPI): Soviet lawmakers today condemned the Kremlin's December 1979 invasion of Afghanistan and said the decision by a small clique of officials deserves "moral and political condemnation."

In a longer look back at history, lawmakers also admitted the existence of the 1939 Hitler-Stalin secret protocols in a victory for Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian deputies who said the vote throws into doubt the Baltic region's inclusion in the Soviet Union.

The Congress of People's Deputies, on the last day of its second session, castigated former Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Yuri Andropov, president Andrei Gromyko and defence minister Dmitri Ustinov — all now dead — for their secret decision to invade the Soviet Union's southern neighbour.

Andropov was head of the KGB secret service and Gromyko was foreign minister at the time of the Afghan invasion, after which both men rose to their higher posts.

"On the final day of its work, the second Congress of Soviet People's deputies stated that the decision to bring Soviet troops into Afghanistan in December 1979 deserves "moral and political condemnation", the official Tass news agency said.

Before the vote to condemn the Afghan invasion, lawmakers rose and observed a minute of silence in honour of the Soviet soldiers who died during the Kremlin's more than nine-year entanglement.

The government said 14,143 soldiers perished in the Soviet involvement, which ended in February after a nine-month withdrawal under a UN settlement, a higher figure than Moscow's previous official death toll of 13,310.

The lawmakers' vote codified the Oct 23 declaration by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who said in a major foreign policy address that the Afghan invasion had been a mistake.

"This political assessment does not cast a shadow on Soviet soldiers and officers who honestly did their duty" in Afghanistan, Alexander Dzasokhov, chairman of the parliamentary committee for international affairs, told the Congress.

The report from Dzasokhov's panel said the decision to invade Afghanistan, to prop up a communist regime beset by internal feuds and a Muslim insurgency, "was made by a narrow circle of people in violation of the Soviet constitution, according to which such matters belong to the jurisdiction of higher state bodies."

### Noriega commander surrenders Normalcy returning

PANAMA CITY, Dec. 24, (Agencies): Some stores and petrol stations reopened today as life in the war-torn capital showed signs of returning to normal five days after US troops invaded Panama and toppled its military leader, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

US forces, which will be bolstered by 2,000 additional troops, tightened control over the city but faced "isolated resistance" from armed remnants of Noriega's paramilitary Dignity Battalions, said Colonel Jerry Murgia, a spokesman for the US southern command.

For a second night, the city was relatively calm. Only occasional gunfire was heard and civilian traffic appeared to pick up today.

"We're gaining control," said Colonel James Swank of the southern command. "That's true all over the city. I'm not going to say we're under control. We're gaining control."

US forces invaded Panama early on Wednesday in an effort to protect Americans, restore democracy and oust Noriega, who is wanted in the United States.

(Continued on Page 12)



Army soldiers move to secure a Panamanian citizen after shooting him while trying to turn a road block in Old City section of Panama. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Ershad sacks four ministers, reshuffles cabinet

DHAKA, Dec. 24, (Reuters): President Hussain Mohammad Ershad today dismissed four ministers and reshuffled six others, an official announcement said.

Those sacked were Forest and Environment Minister Mayeedul Islam, Textile Minister Retired Colonel M.A. Matak, Food Minister Retired Major Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury and State Minister of Industries Noor Mohammad Khan.

The announcement said Ershad also reallocated portfolios of six ministers.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain was moved from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower and put in charge of the Ministry of Food.

Sirajul Hossain Khan, minister of relief and rehabilitation, was transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Manpower. Former Jute Minister retired Lt. Colonel Zafar Imam was sent to the Ministry of Forest and Environment while Youth and Sports Minister A.B.M. Rubul Amin Howlader became the new minister of textiles.

# Call to end Filipino rebellion

USIS office in southern Philippines attacked

MANILA, Dec 24. (Agencies): Upheavals sweeping Europe's communist bastions are prompting fresh calls for an end to the 20-year Philippine insurgency — Southeast Asia's last major Marxist rebellion.

The calls by several major newspapers and a political columnist appeared as the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines approaches on Dec 26.

In an editorial today, the Philippine Daily Inquirer said the dramatic changes sweeping the Soviet Union and its allies had undermined the ideological foundation of Marxism.

The newspaper said Filipino communists should consider "a complete and permanent cessation of hostilities."

"For its part, Congress should think seriously about legalising the Communist Party of the Philippines to give its leaders and members an opportunity to participate freely and legally in the politics and government of the country," the newspaper added.

Columnist Jesus Bigornia, writing in the Manila Bulletin, noted the bloody attempt to topple the 24-year regime of Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, the last Warsaw Pact holdout against reform.

## New type of Saarc friendship

COLOMBO, Dec 24. (Kuna): A new type of friendship is developing among the seven nation South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) group, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said here.

The President at a public function yesterday said, there was a new trend among Saarc member nations.

"There was a development of a new type of friendship on economic development among Saarc countries as there was wide consumer markets for goods produced in those countries," Premadasa said.

Referring to India-Lanka relations, the President said the new Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has accepted the independence and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, 11 bodies of youths with gunshots were found in the central district of Nawalapitiya this morning, military officials in Colombo said.

Sinhalese rebels of the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, have been waging a violent campaign against the government since the Indo-Lanka pact was signed.



Flashback

Loyalist soldiers search through motorists belonging at a checkpoint near the Philippine presidential palace as part of recent security measures. The

government ordered the increased security after the attempted military coup earlier this month. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Shooting clubs involved in coup against Cory

MANILA, Dec 24. (AP): Five private shooting clubs associated with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's son were involved in this month's armed attempt to topple President Corason Aquino, the military says.

The Philippine constabulary said yesterday that about 100 civilian club members were identified through photographs and video tapes as having fought alongside military mutineers who launched the bloody, nine-day putsch on Dec 1.

The shooting clubs are part of the Philippine tactical shooting association, an umbrella organisation headed by Juan "Jackie" Ponce Enrile Jr., son

of the former defence minister and lone opposition member of the senate, the constabulary said.

The statement did not, however, name the younger Enrile as among those members taking part in the coup attempt.

The elder Enrile has denied involvement in the coup attempt, believed to have been led by a clique of officers associated with him when he served as Mrs Aquino's defence chief.

Enrile was fired in November 1986 after his followers failed in a coup attempt.

"The fate of Ceausescu and his Romanian Communist Party could serve as a warning to the Philippines," Bigornia wrote. "Possibly, the time has come for the Communist Party of the Philippines to dissolve its New Peoples Army, lay down their arms (and) join the mainstream of Philippine society."

Thousands of candles flickered in front of the homes, businesses and military camps across the Philippines early Monday in a luminous Christmas Day plea for peace in this politically troubled land.

"The candles we will be lighting as one symbolise the longing of the ordinary citizen for peace and tranquility and his repudiation of violence as an instrument of power," the Manila Chronicle said in a front-page editorial.

"Candles and prayers peace" campaign was conceived by entertainer Danny Javier in a bid to forge national unity after the bloody coup attempt and the ongoing Marxist and Muslim insurgencies.

People had been urged to place one candle in front of their home for each member of the household as a gesture of peace and national reconciliation.

On Thursday, the rebel National Democratic Front hinted it would be willing to resume peace talks, which broke off in February 1987. The front, an umbrella organisation of 12 Marxist groups, declared a Christmas and New Year's ceasefire but expressed willingness for a peaceful settlement of the insurgency.

"Let the silence of our guns this Christmas deliver this message loud and clear," the front said. Similar statements were issued by the front during the Christmas seasons of 1987 and 1988.

President Corason Aquino has repeatedly insisted that the communists and their estimated 19,000-strong New Peoples Army first lay down their arms before peace talks can begin.

The government's hardline position on talks may reflect a perception that the rebels do not constitute as great a threat as they appeared in the months following the 1986 ouster of authoritarian president Ferdinand Marcos.

### Threat

In the last three years, the greatest immediate threat to the Aquino government has come not from the communists but from disaffected soldiers who have launched six armed coup attempts, most recently this month.

During the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, fighting between rival military factions raged in Makati, Quezon City and other districts of the capital. The destruction served as a grim reminder of the near daily carnage suffered by Filipinos in remote areas, where the Marxist insurgency is centred.

Three unidentified men sprayed a US government office in southern Philippines with automatic gunfire early today but nobody was reported injured, police said.

A spokesman at the US embassy in Manila confirmed the attack on the United States Information Service (USIS) building in Davao City, 970 kms (606 miles) south of Manila.

Communist guerrillas shot and killed a driver who ignored a rebel checkpoint hours before a Christmas truce with the government took effect, officials said today.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, a regional military commander, said Eduardo Mordeno was shot in the head on Negros island, 300 miles (480 km) south of Manila last evening, six hours before the ceasefire began at 1 am today.



A starving young African girl.

## Guidelines to cope with disasters

# OAU plan of action

NAIROBI, Dec 24. (Reuters): As famine looms again in Ethiopia, Africa is taking determined steps to bolster its ability to cope with seemingly unending disaster.

The 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has drawn up guidelines for a plan of action for disaster preparedness and response to make governments and donors aware of the depth of the problem and outline ways to tackle it.

"Disasters have become the order of the day as they occur more frequently and are deadlier and more destructive," says the document's author, Idris Nur, who heads the OAU's natural resources office.

The document, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, serves as a starting point in Africa's response to what the United Nations has declared the international decade for natural disasters reduction, in the 1990s.

The guidelines will be submitted to the OAU council of ministers along with contributions from a regional conference last October attended by 16 agencies such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Desert Locust Control Organisation.

The ministers, scheduled to meet in Addis Ababa from February 19-24, are expected to draft a resolution for possible action and submit it to the annual OAU summit next July.

The guidelines note that drought, famine, floods, cyclones, locust invasions and epidemics, aggravated by war and civil strife, have taken a severe human and economic toll on the world's poorest continent.

They have contributed to mounting food import bills, greater reliance on emergency food aid, growing ranks of refugees and displaced populations — each now numbering about four million people —

and environmental decay.

A "fact sheet" prepared by the UN emergency and preparedness groups in Addis Ababa registers a record of regular disasters in Ethiopia alone, where up to one million people are believed to have died in the 1984/85 famine.

Over the past 250 years there has been on average a major famine every 11 years.

A century ago, in 1888, one-third of the country's population is said to have died from famine, caused largely by cattle deaths resulting from rinderpest.

In 1984 six million of the country's 47 million people were in need of relief. In 1985, the figure reached 10 million before declining to seven million in 1986 and three million in 1987.

Food shortages and the attendant threat of famine in Ethiopia must now be seen as a chronic problem. "It can no longer be considered a cyclical phenomenon," the information sheet added.

Foreign relief agencies estimate that up to five million Ethiopians will need food aid in 1990 after crop failures this year in the northern provinces of Tigray and Eritrea because of drought.

But while Ethiopia most often hits newspaper headlines the problem is far more widespread, in recent years affecting a big arc from Mauritania in the west across to Somalia on the east coast, bending south as far as Swaziland.

"It is generally believed ... that two or more drought occurrences affecting large areas of the continent come about every decade," the OAU guidelines noted.

The document quotes estimates claiming that "usable pastoral areas" in Africa's arid and semi-arid regions have shrunk in size by one-quarter over the past 21 years.

Africa's deserts, it said, were spreading at a rate of six million hectares (14.8 million acres) a year.

## UK charges 2 over bomb plot

### Police warn of further attempts

LONDON, Dec 24. (UPI): British anti-terrorist police charged two Irish men late yesterday with conspiracy to cause explosions on or before Dec 21 in mainland Britain. They warned of possible further plots by Northern Irish terrorist groups to set off bombs in Britain over the Christmas period.

The two men, aged between 25 and 35, were arrested Thursday after police staked out a large arms cache, discovered a month ago at Newgate in Wales on the west coast of Britain. Yesterday, after questioning the men at London's maximum security

Paddington Green Police Station, armed police raided houses in the capital's commuter belt, in the towns of Luton and Dunstable.

But they warned that there could be further arms caches in mainland Britain, put there by clandestine cells of the terrorist provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army.

Head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad George Churchill-Coleman said the public should remain "vigilant," as fears grew that a planned bombing campaign might still get underway.

## Tamil rebels fire at army copter

COLOMBO, Dec 24. (Reuters): Tamil rebels fired on a Sri Lankan air force helicopter on Friday evening, the Defence Ministry said today.

It said the helicopter was carrying food to government troops when it came under fire in Cheddikulam in the northern Vavuniya district. It returned to base safely with 23 bullet holes and nobody was injured.

Military sources said the illegal Tamil National Army (TNA) raised by the Indian-backed Eelam People's Revolutionary Front was responsible for the attack.

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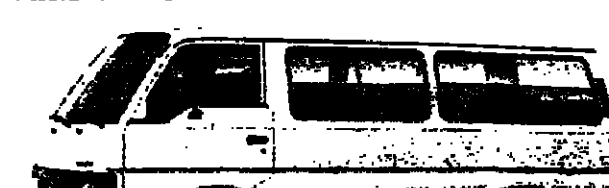
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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan:** Milton Halverson has sent the same birthday card to his longtime pal Arlene Carlson for 50 years.

And she sends it right back. Mended over the years by strips of transparent tape now yellow and brittle, the card is the kind that could put a greeting card company out of business.

Known as a "thrifty card," it features a piece of glazed paper on which the giver writes his or her name in pencil. The idea is explained in a Scottish verse inside that ends: "ye can just wash off my name, write in your own ye see. Then when my birthday comes around, ye can send it back to me."

And that's what we've been doing for the past 50 years," said Halverson, who mailed the card for the 100th time. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Jack Nicholson, Hollywood's top box office attraction, but he says, "that's all by design."

"I like being in that second or third spot," the actor, who stands to make \$60 million for his role in "Batman," said in an interview.

"Just let some other lunatic do this stuff and move up behind him, and nobody gets too excited about it," Nicholson said. "I've had creative autonomy from 'Easy Rider' on, with a few exceptions, and that's all you get out of being the number one box office star anyway." (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Tom Cruise, although familiar with "The Colour of Money," says he's never done a film just for the cash.

"I don't know how many times I have to say this, but having clout in the business has never been a huge concern of mine," Cruise said in an interview.

"And I have never done a film for money... that's not what acting is for me. I love doing it, and I want to try different things," said Cruise, who co-starred with Dustin Hoffman in "Rain Man" and Paul Newman in "The Colour of Money."

His most recent different thing: The role of disabled Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic in the just released "Born on the Fourth of July." Cruise said he ignored the advice of studio executives and others who felt he should steer clear of the role. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Heavyweight boxer Michael "Blondie" Green, who once had a street scuffle with champ Mike Tyson, was convicted of drunken driving and possession of the drug PCP.

The conviction in state court stemmed from a Dec. 30, 1988, accident in which Green's pink 1979 Lincoln Continental struck two parked cars. Nobody was hurt. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** "Do the Right Thing" did just that for the Los Angeles Film Critics Association as the controversial film about racial tensions scored honour as best picture of 1989 and best director for Spike Lee.

"Do the Right Thing," set on the hottest day of the year in New York, also won awards for Danny Aiello for best supporting actor and for the musical score by Lee's father, Bill Lee.

Andie MacDowell, who played the sexually frustrated housewife in "Sex, Lies and Videotape," shared the best actress honour with Michelle Pfeiffer, the sultry lounge singer in "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

The best foreign film honour was split between "Distant Voices—Still Lives" from Britain and France's "Story of Women." Disney's "The Little Mermaid" picked up the award for best animation for writer-directors John Musker and Ron Clements.

Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor for his portrayal in "My Left Foot" of Irish writer-painter Christy Brown, who was born with cerebral palsy. Brenda Fricker, who played Brown's mother, won best supporting actress.

Best screenplay went to Gus Van Sant and Daniel Yost for "Drugstore Cowboy," about narcotics burglars in the early 1970s. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Michael Jackson says his hit songs are not his doing, that he is merely a conduit for tunes already written.

Jackson made the remarks in a home video taped years ago in his home in Encino, California.

In the video, the reclusive star said he feels his songs existed somewhere else before he wrote them.

"I feel I'm just a tunnel, a tube through which they come," Jackson said in the video. "I mean, 'Billie Jean' and 'Beat It' and all those songs have been up there somewhere and just came through to me. So even if I did it, I just can't always take credit."

The video also shows Jackson playing with his pet llamas and performing scenes from "Peter Pan."

Jackson said he considers children magical.

"When I'm around them, I feel more alive, I think, than anything. I feel like I can do anything," he said. (AP)

**DALLAS:** A manufacturing mistake has struck a sour note with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

The producer of compact discs for the pro Arts Record company mislabelled up to 1,000 compact discs, according to the orchestra's music administrator, Victor Marshall. (AP)



Building catches fire

A raging pre-dawn fire chased 106 residents from a 14-storey condominium, burned two construction sites and set the roofs of five expensive homes ablaze before it was doused early Saturday in Los Angeles.

Five firefighters suffered minor injuries and an 89-year-old woman was hospitalized for smoke inhalation. The fire broke out around 3:30 a.m. in a four-storey apartment building that was in the final stages of construction and spread to the condominium tower and to a three-storey apartment building. It hopped Wilshire Boulevard, one of the city's main thoroughfares, and ignited chemical drums at a construction site and residential roofs downtown.

The cause was unknown but arson teams were investigating, said city fire chief Donald Manning. (Reuters wirephoto)

**BOSTON:** Jacqueline Onassis' dispute with the Wampanoag Indians over prime beach-front property that the Indians say contains the graves of a chief and his wife may soon be resolved, lawyers for both sides say.

Wampanoag lore holds that Chief Moshup, and his wife Squam, are buried on the disputed Martha's Vineyard Moshup according to the oral tradition, threw his children into the sea when he saw the white man approaching.

Mrs Onassis bought a 17 per cent interest in the Gay Head Beach property in 1980 from a Wampanoag family that has owned the property since the state surveyed and divided up Gay Head in 1870. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Actor James Naughton, whose life has taken that familiar theatrical tour of hard work for years only to be declared an overnight success, says acting is as much fun as baseball.

The 44-year-old performer's characterisation of a tough-talking private eye turned him into a star when the Broadway musical "City of Angels" opened last week. Naughton, who has a long list of stage and film credits, landed a plum off-Broadway role as early as 1971 in "Long Days Journey into Night" with Geraldine Fitzgerald and Stacy Keach.

He acts, he says, because "it's a lot of fun. It's the same kind of fun as when I was a kid. And to be able to continue to do that, it's sort of like playing baseball." (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Hollywood movie executive Jeff Sagansky, 37, has been named by CBS as the president of its troubled entertainment division.

Sagansky, president of Tri-Star Pictures and a former top programming executive at NBC, succeeds Kim Lesmeister, who resigned Nov 30 after only two seasons as CBS entertainment president.

Sagansky will start work Jan 1 as chief programmer for the once-dominant network that has been third in prime time ratings for two consecutive seasons. (AP)

**LONDON:** A woman aged 69 who was believed to have died at a hospital in England after suffering a heart attack, revived half an hour after being taken to a special room to be laid out for the undertaker, it was reported Thursday.

Ambulancemen heard her gasp at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, southern England, and called a resuscitation team, the Daily Telegraph newspaper said.

The UN-named woman has made a full recovery and is now up and about after having a pacemaker fitted. (Kuna)

**LOS ANGELES:** Former US President Ronald Reagan has offered his assistance to a woman on welfare whose home was burglarised of nearly \$1,200 in Christmas gifts as she visited her cancer-stricken daughter.

Reagan told Blanche Griffin, 34, in a phone call while she was at a police station that he and his wife, Nancy, would help her in any way they could, said police Capt Carley Mitchell.

Residents, police officers, firefighters and local vendors also have rallied to the aid of Ms Griffin.

The woman had just returned home from visiting her 9-year-old daughter Veronica, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, when she discovered the theft of gifts she said she had saved money for all year. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Singer Michael Jackson was among the hordes of tourists who attended the Radio City Music Hall Christmas show and shopped at a toy store this week.

Jackson drew curious crowds and a gaggle of photographers as he stopped at FAO Schwarz and then took in the afternoon Christmas show at Rockefeller Centre.

Leaving the music hall by a back entrance, Jackson tried to remain incognito by wearing a hat, dark glasses, a scarf pulled up over his nose and mouth, and not even one glove. (AP)

**LISBON, Portugal:** Floods hit the northern city of Oporto and the Douro Valley Friday as heavy rains continued to lash Portugal, cutting road and rail links around the country.

The River Douro overflowed in Oporto's historic Ribeira harbour area, forcing some 200 families to evacuate ground floor dwellings as the flood level rose two metres (yards) over the stone quays, media reports said.

Two barges were adrift on the river close to the Crestuma Dam, 15 km (9 miles) upriver from Oporto, and landslides cut the railroad to Regua, 110 km (70 miles) to the east, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said. (AP)

**MADISON, Wisconsin:** A campus detective says he waited five years for the other shoe to drop — make that shoes, dozens of shoes.

That's what happened Tuesday when Herb Hanson of the University of Wisconsin police questioned a 33-year-old Iowa man who admitted taking side trips to Wisconsin and Illinois for five years to steal shoes from students at campus libraries.

Most of the shoes taken were men's loafers and deck shoes that students had kicked off while working. (AP)

## Crack-lung link

**NEW YORK, Dec. 24, (AP):** Doctors say heavy crack-smoking is making addicts critically ill with symptoms similar to pneumonia, according to a published report.

The condition, which has been dubbed crack-lung, is not readily detected unless patients tell doctors of their crack addiction, the New York Times reported in today's editions. If not treated properly, it can lead to death.

The condition has been identified in four inner-city hospitals in Detroit, Michigan, and the problem also has been recognised in New York and Baltimore, Maryland, the newspaper said.

While giving outward signs of suffering from pneumonia, the patients do not respond to antibiotics or other anti-pneumonia treatments.

Scientists remain unsure what causes the condition, but some believe it is caused by a variation of any number of ailments that occur when poisonous compounds are introduced into the lungs, the Times said. The condition also may be caused by other drugs used in combination with crack.

Dr Dana G Kisser, a Detroit pulmonary specialist, said crack-lung patients suffer severe chest pains and breathing problems, and often have high temperatures and cough up blood.

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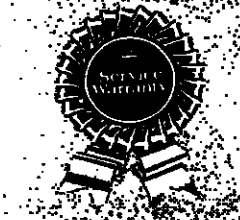
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## INTERNATIONAL

## Search for 'mad' genes a failure

NEW YORK, Dec 24, (AP) — Efforts to find defective genes that help trigger psychiatric disorders have yielded only disappointments this year, but gene-hunting researchers say they remain optimistic.

A highly publicised 1987 paper, for example, reported evidence that a gene for manic-depressive disorder in three generations of a large Amish family lay within a portion of the chromosome numbered 11. But this year, most of the co-authors joined other scientists to report that new data greatly weakened the evidence for the gene's existence.

"The evidence has not completely disappeared," said co-author Ken Kidd of Yale University. But now "it's not a strong bit of evidence."

Scientists seeking possibly defective genes within the 23 pairs of chromosomes everyone carries study large families with seemingly inherited tendencies toward diseases. This lets them look for genetic differences showing up in the sick people when compared with family members without the disease.

Other studies involving manic-depressive disorder, which causes nearly 2 million Americans to alternate between bouts of depression and excessive euphoria, have suggested that a gene resides on the chromosome designated X.

Miron Baron of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons considers evidence that he and others presented in a 1987 paper to be strong, but not compelling. Hugh Gurling of the University of London, citing other research with similar findings, considers the link to the X chromosome confirmed.

But Kidd said his colleagues greeted with skepticism the 1987 study, which follows a "somewhat checkered history" of similar research.

"A lot of people just don't know how to interpret it. It is not broadly accepted in the scientific community as a definitive study," he said.

And Elliot Gershon of the National Institute of Mental Health said a study not yet published has found no evidence of a manic-depressive gene in the location that Baron's paper indicated.

"We don't know what the story is on chromosome X and manic-depressive illness," said Gershon, chief of the clinical neurogenetics branch of the institute's intramural research programme.

Scientists want to find and analyse the genes because it might lead to advances in diagnosis and treatment. When they fail to confirm a reported genetic link, it can mean one of three things: The first report was incorrect, the one that failed to confirm the link overlooked the gene, or both were right: The gene exists in family members studied for the first paper, but not in people studied for the second.

## Uncertainty

Similar uncertainty surrounds Gurling's 1988 study that found evidence of a gene for schizophrenia on chromosome 5. It included seven families from Iceland and Britain. No evidence for such a gene appeared in another study, published at the same time, of a large Swedish family.

This year, separate studies on families from Scotland and North America also found no evidence of the proposed gene.

Gurling, who plans confirmatory studies of his own in Icelandic families within the next couple of months, considers some attempts to test his results poorly designed. Beyond that, he believes the gene is not a predominant cause of schizophrenia outside Iceland. Therefore, if it is related to only a fraction of cases elsewhere, many people will be needed to detect its presence.

"We simply have not tested enough families so far," and it may take another 20 to 100 families to give Gurling's findings a fair chance of being confirmed, said researcher William Bevilacqua of the University of Utah Medical Centre in Salt Lake City. "The Gurling data looks to me still promising, but it's likely to be a rare cause of the disease."

Kidd said he doubts Gurling's proposed gene exists. Yet he and other researchers are hopeful about future chances for finding genes for psychiatric disorders.

"There's a very healthy realisation that this is not going to be easy," said Kidd. "I don't think it's impossible."

"I'm optimistic," said Baron. "But I think we have to be prepared for hard work and perseverance, and a high frustration tolerance."

US cold toll reaches 73  
Record low temperature in 112 places

WASHINGTON, Dec 24, (AP) — A cold snap across the United States has been blamed for the deaths of at least 73 people by Sunday, after setting record low temperatures in 112 places, the National Weather Service said.

Yankton, South Dakota, 31 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (34 degrees below zero Celsius) was the official coldest spot in the lower 48 states yesterday. Twenty-six states have been hit by frigid weather since Dec 15.

Cold and snow burst into Florida yesterday, threatening fruit and vegetable crops, as Arctic air forced temperatures to more record lows.

Three utilities in Texas had to institute "rolling blackouts" because they couldn't keep up with demand for power. Other utilities asked customers to conserve power and shut off service to some commercial clients, and heating oil and propane were high priced and in short supply in some areas. Power was also in short supply in Virginia and Florida.

Low-temperature records for the date were set or tied in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,

Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

But temperatures in many areas were not quite so low as Friday, and a change was edging in from the West.

Snow closed several airports in the south. Two inches of snow fell overnight on the coast of South Carolina, and inland Columbia was forecast to have its first white Christmas since 1935. Snow also fell on parts of southern Georgia.

The coast guard rescued 27 hunters and fishermen from bayous and marshes in southern Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi Friday and Saturday, said petty officer Gene Maestas. One fisherman near death from exposure told rescuers in Mississippi his boat sank Dec 20, Maestas said.

In New Orleans, 98 fires, several of them major and most probably caused by portable heaters, broke out between noon Friday and noon Saturday, said fire department Capt

Bob Whitman.

Tiny snowflakes mixed with sleet began falling in Tallahassee, Florida, Friday evening, turning into big, wet flakes that piled up nearly an inch as freezing temperatures gripped parts of northern Florida.

"It's a Christmas miracle exclaimed one child scampering in the white stuff."

"It hasn't done this since 1958," declared Bert McArthur, standing in her front yard watching the flakes descend.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for extreme northern Florida and said freezing rain or sleet was possible for the central part of the state. Forecasters also issued a wind chill advisory for all of Florida as temperatures were expected to fall steadily.

Forecasters said Miami could also see some snow flurries today. The last time it snowed in south Florida was January 1977, the NWS said.

The icy cold threatened to devastate citrus orchards in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. The Arctic air sent temperatures plunging in the Carolinas.

## Soliloquy in today's English

## Charles' version of Hamlet

LONDON, Dec 24, (AP) — Prince Charles used Shakespeare's "Hamlet" to illustrate the decline of the English language, bemoaning what he called impoverished, sloppy banalities and clichés.

The Prince said English had been the medium for some of the greatest literature in the world, including that of William Shakespeare.

But he said the state of modern English led him to wonder how Shakespeare's Hamlet would have delivered his famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy in today's language.

In act III, scene 1 of "Hamlet," the protagonist says:

*To be, or not to be: That is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles, And by opposing end them?*

Here is Prince Charles' version of how the soliloquy would be written in today's English:

*Well, frankly, the problem as I see it At this moment in time is whether I Should just lie down under all this hassle And let them walk all over me.*

*Or, whether I should just say: 'OK, I get the message, and do myself in.'*

■ Prince Charles will mix business with pleasure during a week-long visit to the United States in February.

Buckingham Palace announced his first stop will be Feb 16 in Washington, where he will attend the American Institute of Architects "accent on architecture" celebration.

The 41-year-old heir to the British throne also will attend an event for the Association of Marshall Scholars, of which he is honorary patron.

Charles then goes to an international business conference in Charleston, South Carolina, and play in charity polo matches in Florida.

## Smokers plan to fight back

STOCKHOLM, Dec 24, (AP) — Shoved into corners, banned from local flights, excluded from some hotel floors, smokers in Scandinavia say they have had enough and will fight for their rights.

Smokers have banded together in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark to combat perceived discrimination, lobby against new anti-smoking laws and share tricks for sneaking a smoke against the rules.

"We want to protect smokers' rights. We don't want to encourage people to smoke, especially not young people," said Bengt Oste, chairman of the Swedish lobby, Smokepeace.

"Too many smoking bans were coming from all over the place. It was about time somebody did something about it," said Tore Dinesen, explaining the origin of the Danish Smokers' Organisation, Henry.

In their latest action, the pro-smoker groups published a pamphlet on how to avoid the smoking bans on local flights by Finnair and SAS, the Scandinavian Airlines system. The rule was extended Nov 1 to any international flight less than 100 minutes long on these airlines.

The smokers' guide to smokers' flights in the Nordic area lists flights by other airlines which have stopovers in the region and have smoking sections.

To get to Copenhagen from Helsinki, the pamphlet says, a traveller can fly Pan Am to Stockholm and transfer to a Soviet Aeroflot aircraft to the Danish capital. A heavy smoker might have time for two cigarettes on each leg.

Finnair claims it was the first airline to introduce non-smoking seats more than 20 years ago.

Smokepeace, which adopted the symbol of an Indian in feathered headdress puffing a peace pipe, says it just wants a fair deal for smokers and non-smokers alike.

In 10 months it has attracted 1,500 members. Some are non-smokers offended by discrimination, Oste said, and 53 per cent are women.

"Smokers have to back down a bit, so as not to harm or irritate non-smokers," said Oste, an anchorman for Swedish television news who says he has been a pipe smoker for 45 years.

At the same time, fair provision should be made for smokers, he said.

"Too often, company managers and politicians are making decisions without asking workers," Oste said.

Henry, launched two years ago by a Danish wine and tobacco merchant, enlisted Denmark's pipe-smoking Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen in an advertising campaign last spring to plead: "Tolerance and consideration are the basis of living together."

Although it doesn't release financial figures, Henry reportedly gets some funding from the Danish tobacco industry.



Defend Panama: Ortega

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said in a fiery speech on Saturday that Latin America has the right to send troops to Panama to defend its citizens there.

"In Panama there are Nicaraguan citizens and Latin American citizens," he told a crowd of thousands of supporters in Chinandega, 130 km (80 miles) north of Managua.

"We Latin Americans have the right to move troops to

Panama to guarantee the lives of the Latin Americans who are in Panama," he said. "It is not a matter of declaring war against the United States, but it is a matter of declaring war against the interventionist policy of the United States."

He appealed to Panamanians to resist the US invasion. Ortega also urged countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to unite to defend Panamanian interests.

## Immigrants rising stars in Latam

## Arabs leave mark

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 24, (AP) — Carlos Menem, the son of a Syrian immigrant, typifies the Arab experience in Latin America, where thousands of Arabs who fled poverty and oppression have forged a new life.

Menem, who assumed the presidency of Argentina in July, recalls how his father Saul arrived penniless and worked as a street vendor in a hot, dusty province until he saved enough to set up a general store.

Despite setbacks, Saul prospered, and later insisted that his four sons go to college. "He instilled in us the need ... to study for a career," said Menem, who became a lawyer, a provincial governor and then president at age 59.

Menem is just one of the descendants of tens of thousands of Arabs who settled in cities and towns across this continent. They have since become figures of consequences in business, the armed forces and politics.

Some have achieved fame, others notoriety. In Brazil, three of the 22 candidates for president in the Nov 15 elections were of Lebanese descent, including Paulo Salm Maluf, former mayor of Sao Paulo.

In Ecuador, the Lebanese-descended Bucaram family has produced two presidents of Congress, Assad and his son Averroes; and one candidate for president, Assad's nephew Abdala.

In Colombia, the Bogota police chief, Yacin Yamine Diaz, and the deputy army commander, Farouk Yamine Diaz, are sons of a Palestinian Arab father and a Colombian mother. Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, president of Colombia from 1978 to 1982, was of Arab descent, as are 10 current Colombian Congressmen.

Prominent Chileans of Arab descent include Dr Elias Neghme, former dean of the medical school at the University of Chile, Rafael Tauro, a former cabinet minister and president of the bar association, and Sabino Awad and Juan Carlos Espiguel, both past leaders of Chile's Olympic Committee.

The Argentine list includes philosopher and diplomat Victor Massuh, ex-secretary general of Unesco, pianist Miguel Angel Estrella, novelist Jorge Asis, the Saadi and Sapag families that boast provincial governors and national senators, and Menem's brother Eduardo, president of the Senate.

"We are the third biggest ethnic group in Argentina," after the Spanish and Italians, said Ramez Chacra, past president of the Federation of Arab American Entities.

"Don't think that the glory of Arabs in Argentina started with Menem," Chacra, a clothing wholesaler, said good-naturedly between phone calls, sips of black coffee and instructions to employees in his busy store. "He just made us fashionable."

Arabs began arriving in large numbers at

the end of the last century. Waves followed the end of each of the world wars.

"Arab immigration really means Syria, Lebanon, Palestine — the parts of the decaying Ottoman Empire that was subject to religious discrimination, military draft, persecution, massacre," said Zake Consul, cultural affairs officer at Syria's embassy in Buenos Aires.

Today, there are 15 million people of Arab descent living in Latin America, according to the federation, based in Sao Paulo with branches in 22 countries. Brazil leads with 8 million, Chacra said, followed by Argentina with 2 million.

The first immigrants intended to make money and return home, Consul said. When that proved impossible, they settled in.

By most accounts, they were warmly received.

"Arabs coming to Chile found the generosity of the Chilean people, their warm reception," said Nelson Hadad, an attorney and leading member of the Arab community in Santiago. "Our grandparents, our parents always tell us that."

Monsieur Chalhita, director of the Gibran International Cultural Centre in Rio de Janeiro former ambassador of the League of Arab states, said, "The Lebanese found for the first time a country they could count on to protect them, and a friendly hospitable people."

Many immigrants were orthodox Christians, not Muslims, and spoke French, not Arabic. They assimilated easily, learning Portuguese in Brazil and Spanish in the other countries.

Many descendants, including Menem, were baptised as Roman Catholics, the dominant religion in the region, and assimilated so completely they do not speak or write the language of their parents.

Some changed their names to lessen what discrimination there was, or simply to fit in better. Alferes, "the Horseman," became Alvarez in Argentina. In Brazil, Haddad became Ferreira, both mean "smith." Zaituni became Oliveira, both mean "olive" or "olive tree."

In Jorge Amado's novel, "Gabriela, Clove and Cinamon," set in the Brazilian city of Ilheus, Gabriela is married to cafe owner Nacib, a Syrian who protests violently when townspeople call him "Turk."

As brothers and cousins joined family members who arrived earlier, the Arabs quickly spread out.

Social and cultural clubs are common, but Arab neighbourhoods — such as Rua da Alfaneira in Rio, a street lined with Arab shops and restaurants — are rare, as are examples of Arab architecture, like mosques.

## Colombia extradites another drug trafficker to US

WASHINGTON, Dec 24, (AP) — A fugitive convicted as a leader of a cocaine-smuggling operation was flown to the United States today after the Colombian government turned him over to US authorities, the US Marshals Service said.

Victor Eduardo Mera-Mosquera, 36, is the 11th person extradited from Colombia since the country began its crackdown against drug traffickers in August, US Marshals Service director K. Michael Moore said in a statement.

Mera-Mosquera, a native of Colombia, fled the United States in 1984, just before the trial in New York where he was found guilty of numerous cocaine offenses, said the statement.

The fugitive was arrested by Colombian police in the city of Cali on Oct 13 and turned over last night to US Marshals, who flew him back to New York City early today. He was being held at an undisclosed location pending a court hearing to set a date for his sentencing, the Marshals Service said.

According to the Marshals Service, Mera-Mosquera fled the United States as he was awaiting trial in Feb 1984, when he was freed in the mistaken belief that he had been ordered released.

While still a fugitive, Mera-Mosquera was convicted in US district court in Manhattan along with 10 other people of the drug charges. The indictment charged that he was one of two leaders of an organisation that dealt in "massive quantities of cocaine," the Marshals Service said.



## Baltics shocked at Parliament's no to resolution

# Moscow rejects call to denounce Nazi-Soviet Pact

MOSCOW, Dec 24. (Agencies): The Soviet Parliament yesterday rejected a proposal to declare illegal protocols to the 1939-Nazi-Soviet Pact which led to the incorporation of the three Baltic republics into the Soviet Union.

A resolution describing as "baseless and illegal" the protocols to the non-aggression pact failed to receive the necessary 50 per cent support from the 2,250 members of the Congress of People's Deputies.

A total of 1,052 members backed the resolution, which was drawn up on the basis of a report on the pact by politburo member Alexander Yakovlev. This compares with 678 against and 150 abstentions.

A second attempt by first Vice-President Anatoly Lukyanov to secure approval of a watered-down version won even fewer votes.

Deputies from the three republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — had expressed approval of Yakovlev's report and were clearly shocked by the parliament's rejection of the resolution.

"This decision may be a good thing for world opinion in that it shows just how conservative this Parliament is," Estonian Deputy Marju Lauristin told reporters after the vote.

"Fifty years after the fact, they prefer to sleep on with Stalin's dreams."

Deputies opposed to the proposal questioned whether the protocols signed by the Soviet and German foreign ministers, Vyacheslav Molotov and Joachim von Ribbentrop, actually existed.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told the Parliament yesterday secessionist sentiment could rip the country apart and bring bloodshed.

The Soviet leader, emotionally jabbing his hands in the air, spoke to the Congress of People's Deputies on the eve of an expected Communist Party central committee meeting to discuss the Lithuanian party's decision earlier in the week to break with the national party.

Gorbachev has tried in the past several months to prevent the split, and reacted angrily when the Lithuanian Party made its overwhelming decision on Wednesday.

The Lithuanian move is part of a long-range programme to restore the independence of the small Baltic republics enjoyed between the world wars.

"To realise the right to self-determination through secession means to blow up the union, set people against each other and sow conflict and blood and death. That's what separatists are pushing us toward," Gorbachev said to the Congress's applause.

Meanwhile, activists reported from Lithuania that the republic's Communist Party

had split in two: One party that still is loyal to its mother party in Moscow and the other, larger party that has declared independence from Moscow.

A plenum of the national Communist Party's central committee was expected to convene today to address the changes in the Lithuanian Party.

In other action yesterday, the Soviet Congress heard a report from a panel on the tangled affair of two controversial prosecutors who have accused several top party leaders of corruption.

The panel's chairman, Veniamin Yarin, said it had found no proof that politburo member Yegor K. Ligachev had taken

bribes as the two prosecutors, Telman Gdlyan and Nikolai Ivanov, alleged.

Gorbachev, calling his reform drive the "salvation of socialism," also defended ethnic Russian dominance of the nation yesterday.

The Soviet leader passionately defended his "perestroika" drive for social renewal and rebutted radical lawmakers' charges that the programme was disorganised.

Gorbachev defended his reforms amid fierce debate over a proposal to establish a permanent government commission on constitutional compliance to guide the nation in its movement toward law-based rule.

## Murderer makes respite possible

Victim's family at peace

BOUNTIFUL, Utah, Dec 2. (AP): This Christmas is the first in 15 years that Belva Kent has been at peace. The irony does not escape her that it was serial killer Ted Bundy who made the respite possible.

Just before his Jan 24 execution in Florida, Bundy confessed to having killed her 17-year-old daughter, Debra, and at least 22 other young women in the 1970s. The condemned man also indicated on a map torn from an Atlas where he dumped three of his eight victims in Utah.

Numerous searches over several months in central Utah yielded hundreds of animal bones but only a single human kneecap. It was among 10 bags of bones collected by searchers in early May near a road leading into Fairview Canyon, 150 miles (240 kilometres) south of Salt Lake City, the state capital. The area had been pinpointed by Bundy, a former Utah law student.

Within days, Belva Kent, her ex-husband, Dean, and two of their three surviving children went with detectives to the rock-strewn hillside.

"We were very peaceful down there," Belva Kent said in an interview Friday night. "I came home feeling better than I have in 15 years."

It took longer for Dean Kent. But after some weeks he concluded that Bundy, in this instance, hadn't been lying.

"Based on what we had known from his confession, his description fit the area. I'm confident it's a good possibility that's where he disposed of the remains," Dean Kent said.

"It's given me peace of mind to

believe that's what happened." The state medical examiner said the kneecap was likely that of a young woman, but there was no way to determine if it was Debra Kent's.

Debra Kent disappeared the night of Nov 8, 1974, from a high school parking lot in Bountiful, 10 miles (16 km) north of Salt Lake City. She had left a play early to pick up her younger brother, Bill, at a roller rink.

Even though the Kents had been certain for years that Debra was a Bundy victim, his confession and execution struck them in surprising ways.

"I'd felt some of the bitterness would be relieved, but that isn't the case. I think I'll carry that to my grave," Dean Kent said.

Belva Kent relieved the grief all over again.

"Everyone says you're not given more than you can handle, but I've been questioning that a bit lately," she said.

After Debra disappeared, her brother, Bill, blamed himself. His bitterness toward Bundy was matched only by his inability to stifle the pain. Five years ago, after his marriage broke up, he died at 26 in an alcohol-related auto accident.

Within months of Debra's death, Dean Kent started drinking, walked out on a 29-year marriage, quit his job as an oil company executive and fathered a child. He lives alone now, trying to come to grips with his shattered life.

"I certainly feel he (Bundy) was the cancer that destroyed our family," he said.



Cutting frontiers

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany (left) and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia are cutting frontiers dividing their nations Dec 23 in a gesture symbolising European liberation. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Open beach

Swim and let swim

DURBAN, Dec 24. (AP): Black and white children helped each other build sandcastles. Their older brothers played soccer together. White lifeguards shouted warnings in Zulu.

After years of debate, protests and occasional violence, South Africa has opened all its beaches to all races and buried one of its most visible and resented apartheid practices.

As recently as August, police used whips and dogs to keep blacks off segregated sand. But at Durban's hotel-lined beachfront, the busiest in the country, the attitude today was swim and let swim.

"I preferred segregated beaches," said Charles Erasmus, a vacationing white. "But what am I going to do? Spite myself and not go swimming? The law's been changed and we'll have to accept it."

President FW De Klerk last month declared an end to whites-only beaches, settling a conflict that arose every December when hundreds of thousands of South Africans travel to the coast for vacation.

For authorities, opening the beaches has proved far easier than keeping them segregated in the face of mounting black protest. Shortly before De Klerk's declaration, the Durban city council spent six hours debating whether to open the last remaining stretches of segregated beach.

Their solution: Remove the embarrassing "whites only" signs but keep the law in effect.

Days after De Klerk's announcement, the council voted 24-5 to integrate the beaches.

Morris Fynn, a mixed-race man who was arrested several times for cutting down "whites only" beach signs, ceremoniously buried his saw in the sand to mark the formal death of beach apartheid.

Three years ago, Allan Hendrickse, the first mixed-race member of the cabinet, invited the press to watch him take a dip at a whites-only beach at Port Elizabeth.

One of his next public acts was to apologise for his swim after receiving a tongue-lashing from then-president PW Botha.

Anti-apartheid groups targeted beaches along with other segregated facilities when they launched a nation-wide defiance campaign in August.

When protesters arrived at a beach near Cape Town, it was cordoned off and accompanied by signs saying, "police dog training in progress."

When the demonstrators proceeded, they were met with tear gas, whips and police dogs. Several people were injured.

Local authorities have complied with De Klerk's proclamation, though under protest in some cases. But there have been no reports of racial violence, or even serious overcrowding, since the beaches were opened.

"Look, there are thousands of people here and no confrontations," said Walter Buthelezi, a black 19-year-old who was visiting the beachfront with his sisters. "There was never any need for segregated beaches."

But Durban's Mayor Derrick Waterson disagrees. "This wouldn't have happened easily five years ago, conservative whites weren't ready for it," he said.

Waterson and his council have received more than 400 complaints from whites. In the town of Mossel Bay, about 2,500 whites have signed a petition asking for a return to segregated beaches.

Many whites insist they are not racist and say they want separate beaches because of "cultural differences."

Some blacks swim in their underwear and strip naked when washing off under the shower nozzles at the beach, the whites complain. "It's mostly older people that get offended, but when we talk to the blacks they always co-operate," said lifeguard Liam Halferty.

## Quit call to new Bulgaria leaders

VIENNA, Austria, Dec 24. (AP): Bulgaria's independent trade union called for the resignation of the government and Communist Party leadership as conditions for "real democracy," the state news agency BTA reported yesterday.

The demands of the Union Prodkrepa, until recently banned by the authorities as were all other independent groups in Bulgaria, were categorically rejected by the ruling party's central committee.

But the official reaction also showed that under new party chief Petar Mladenov the leadership no longer ignores the nation's burgeoning opposition. The report quoted Prodkrepa's statement as saying there can be "no real democracy... in Bulgaria because the totalitarian regime has remained untouched."

The Communist Party today called "blackmail" the independent union federation's call for a new coalition government and an immediate resignation of all national and local leaders of the party.

"What makes these people to be in a hurry?" asked the central committee in a statement published by the party newspaper Robotnichesko Delo.

Prodkrepa, whose leaders were harassed and imprisoned this summer prior to the ouster on Nov 10 of longtime party chief Todor Zhivkov, issued four demands "for guarantee of the irreversibility and continuity of development of the democratic process."

It called for the resignation of the government and formation of a coalition cabinet with an independent prime minister, the dissolution of the national assembly, the resignation of the central committee and all its departments and the immediate dissolution of party organisations at the workplace.

## 2,500 Prague inmates on hunger strike

PRAGUE, Dec 24. (AP): Inmates at Leopoldov Prison have staged a hunger strike to press their demand for a general amnesty. Czechoslovak television reported yesterday.

Twenty-five hundred inmates of the Leopoldov Prison started a peaceful protest Friday by refusing to eat food, the broadcast said, showing footage of inmates waving banners in the prison yard. "Many of the prisoners shouted slogans in support of Mr (Vaclav) Havel and Mr.

(Alexander) Dubcek."

Opposition leader Havel is considered likely to be elected president Dec 29 by Czechoslovakia's communist-dominated parliament. He was the sole candidate to be endorsed by all Czechoslovak political groups at a meeting held Friday.

The meeting also nominated Dubcek, Communist Party chief during the crushed 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement, for parliament speakers, although no specific date for

his election was set.

"We, the inmates of Leopoldov have initiated a non-violent struggle to achieve basic human rights," Ivan Berezinec, spokesman for the inmates, was quoted as saying on the television broadcast.

The report said that the prisoners demanded "general amnesty and immediate shortening of sentences." Slovak premier Milan Cizik visited Leopoldov, about 250 miles (400 kilometres) east of Prague.

## West jubilant as last curbs lifted

### Symphonic joy

EAST BERLIN, Dec 24. (Reuters): Thousands of jubilant West Germans streamed into East Germany singing, dancing and popping champagne corks after the reformist communist government lifted the last visa and currency requirements.

Large crowds braved driving rain to celebrate under the newly-opened Brandenburg Gate on the border between East and West Berlin. A West German television announcer said it was "an historic Christmas present for all Germans."

It was the first time West Germans have been able to visit East Germany freely since the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.

Scrapping the requirement that each visitor exchange 25 marks (\$15 US) each day was part of the price East Germany has paid for urgently-needed West German aid to revive its crumbling communist economy.

Trumpeters played Christmas carols at one crossing point, while at another East Berliners lit fireworks and opened champagne to welcome guests. At the Heinrich Heine Street check-point, a man in a Santa Claus suit crossed the former Iron Curtain without a visa.

Flashy West German cars raced around the centre of East Berlin hooting their horns, gliding contemptuously past East Germany's outmoded fibreglass Trabant cars with their highly-polluting two-stroke engines.

Those looking for nightlife were quickly disappointed.

"There's nothing to do here," groaned Christian Foerster, 21, as he and his girlfriend queued in vain with dozens of other West Berliners outside one of the communist city's few discotheques.

"They've got a lot of progress to make in entertainment," Gerda Fischer, 19, a secretary from Hamburg, said after her first hour in East Berlin.

EAST BERLIN, Dec 24. (Reuters): Lost for words, composer Leonard Bernstein is expressing his joy over East Germany's democratic revolution in the language he knows best — music.

The flamboyant American has assembled an orchestra and choir from East and West to perform a piece perhaps closer to German hearts than any other, Beethoven's ninth symphony.

Following the opening of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to the public for the first time in 28 years — giving new life to the grandest monument to German unity — Bernstein is playing the symphony twice, once on either side of the divided city.

"There are no words for this moment, it is so beautiful," Bernstein said as he strode into East Berlin's Schauspielhaus Theatre yesterday for the dress rehearsal.

After the opening of a new border crossing at the gate on Friday, thousands of jubilant Germans flowed unhindered past border guards in the hours before visas and currency exchange requirements were to be officially scrapped last night.

"It's the happiest Christmas I've ever had. I thought I'd be long dead before this ever happened," the 71-year-old conductor and composer of the musical "West Side Story" said.

On the podium he looked as vigorous as ever, throwing his whole body into the music and periodically sweeping back his shock of white hair.

But few people were complaining. The party atmosphere was almost devoid of politics.

There were none of the slogans, flags and banners demanding German unity that sprouted in Dresden last week during West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to East Germany.

While politicians debate the future relationship between the two German states, ordinary Germans are already enjoying people-to-people reunification.

It began on November 9 when East Berlin leaders, hit by the flight of some 330,000 of their 16.5 million citizens to the West since the start of the year, threw open the border, allowing East Germans to visit West Germany for the first time in 28 years.

The dramatic gesture was meant to stem the flood of economic refugees to the West, but some East Germans say they fear it may lead inadvertently to a sell out of their country to the vast richer West Germans.

Heavy traffic was reported at border crossings from West into East Germany earlier today after the onerous visa and currency requirements were formally abolished at midnight.

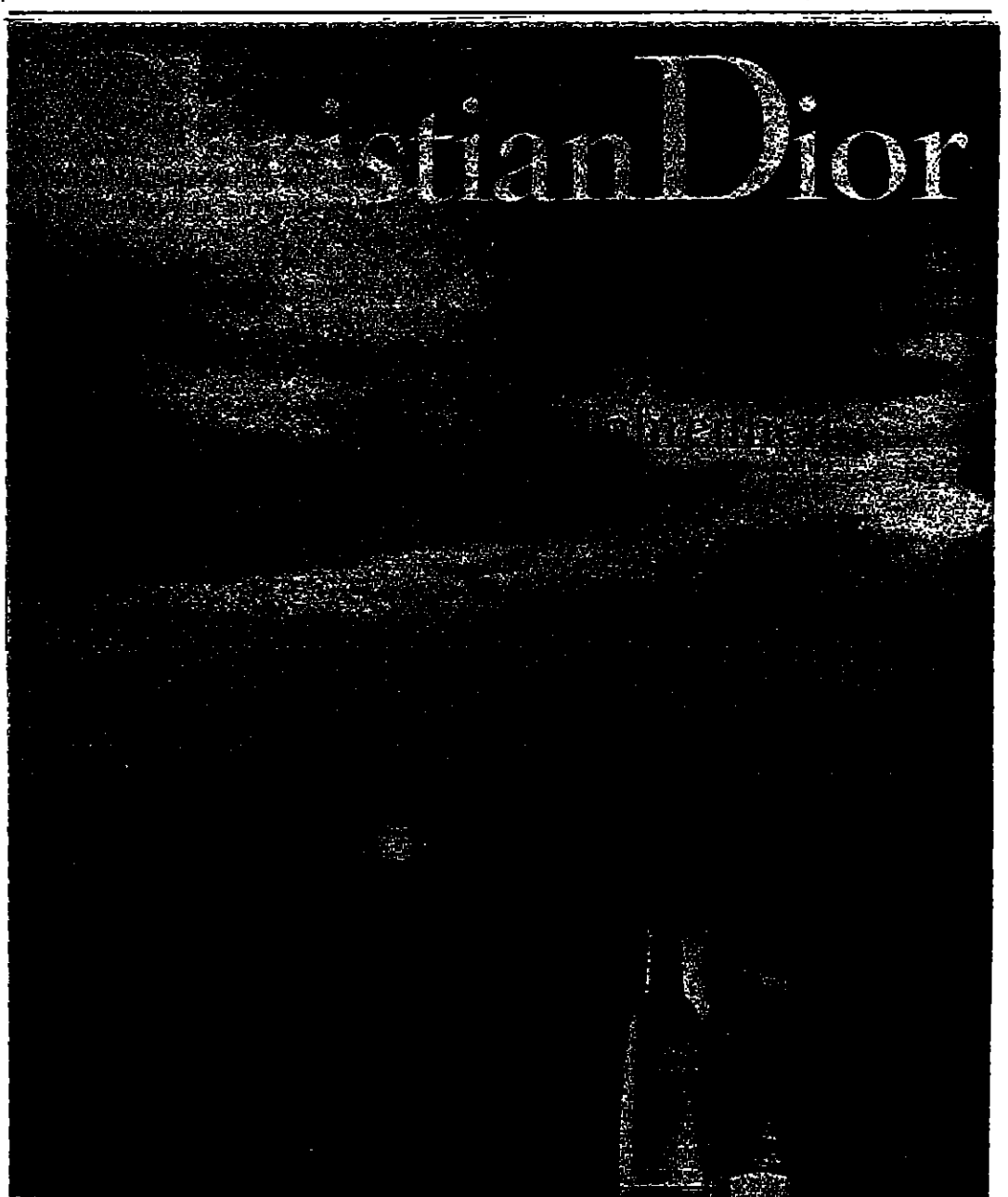
In many cases, East German border guards had begun waving visitors through without visas earlier in the day, giving them only a simple registration form to complete.

"After 38 years, I am going back home for the first time," one weeping woman motorist told West German television.

At the Brandenburg Gate, revellers opened beer barrels and sang along with an organ-grinder sheltering from the rain under the neo-classical arches amid piles of empty champagne bottles.

"What is happening today would have been unthinkable two months ago," said Dieter Korte, a West Berlin salesman.

"If this keeps up, Berlin will melt into a single city within two years and Bonn's days as the capital will be numbered."



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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PEACE on earth, goodwill to men — Gospel according to St Luke.

## OPINION

## Example for oppressors

THE fall of the Romanian dictator Ceausescu should be a vivid example for all leaders who have been oppressing their people.

This glaring example must have already become a very disturbing factor for those leaders who have been depriving their people of the most basic aspects of life — free decision.

Some regimes have totally separated themselves from the rest of the people and live in "ivory towers" totally filling their bellies and without giving any heed to the hunger of their people; drinking the purest types of water, while their own people search polluted rivers to drink from.

At least, the "terrible" Ceausescu has fallen, though some of his admirers believed that his rule was endless and through his secret service, secret hideouts in his many homes and other means was unbeatable and capable of protecting himself from the anger of his people.

Some people have suffered a lot from the tyranny of their leaders who spend huge funds to export ideas and to strengthen their security apparatus. When these leaders walk in their own countries, countless number of secret service men surround them — to keep them away from the anger of the people and prevent people from voicing their opinions. Even when they hear the opinions of the people, they simply resort to cutting off their tongues and burning their hands and bodies with acid.

Alas for such leaders, Ceausescu and all his "heritage" has fallen. He thought there will be no punishment and that with the help of a helicopter, he would any time run away when the people revolt. The leader of the Romanian dictatorship, despite all his special arrangements and alertness, has vanished. He never thought of this moment and his calculations were totally wrong. Had he spent all the huge funds on his people and for their benefits, he would certainly not have needed to try to run away, which he failed to do.

Omar Bin Al Khattab, the second Muslim Caliph, who was famous for his justice, used to sleep alone under the tree. He did not require secret service or guards or spend money for spying on his people and cut off their tongues.

The emperor of "big and ambiguous" talk has fallen. It has now become clear that the talk on progressive policy is not by forming a strong secret police that drag people to jails and kill them without trial. The leader of the big talk on class disputes and progressive policies, has now vanished. He lived at the cost of his people, enjoyed their resources and offered them nothing.

Rulers like him are still ruling in some countries. But they should realise that people learn from others. These leaders should realise that their fate will be similar to that of Ceausescu, who turned from a wild tiger to a mouse searching for a hideout in fear of the hungry cats.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

## Heroin: by-product of long Afghan war

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (AP): Western nations are starting to come to grips with an unexpected byproduct of the 11-year-old Afghan war: heroin.

The brutal fighting between mujahideen and the Soviet-backed Kabul government has destroyed much of the country's agrarian economy and helped turn its small, centuries-old tradition of poppy cultivation into a multi-million dollar industry.

Poppies are easy to grow in war-ravaged agricultural areas and can be highly profitable for farmers. Officials say the colourful flowers' sticky yield of opium is refined into heroin powder in remote laboratories along the mountainous Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier.

Western narcotics agents estimate that up to 80 per cent of the heroin sold in Europe and 25 per cent sold in the United States now comes from the region. Experts say the remainder comes from Latin America and the "Golden Triangle" region in Southeast Asia that includes borders areas of Thailand, Burma and Laos.

## Programme

Afghan Aid, a British emergency relief organisation, began a programme in June 1989 to offer agricultural incentives to wean farmers from the lucrative but lethal crop in rebel-controlled areas.

The United States, which has spent billions of dollars as the insurgents' main arms supplier, plans to launch a similar programme in early 1990.

No country has felt the effects of the burgeoning, illicit industry more than Pakistan, through which most of the heroin passes on its way to the West.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1582 — Gregorian calendar is adopted in Spanish Netherlands.
- 1683 — Britain's Duke of Monmouth escapes to Holland; Spain declares war on France.
- 1688 — England's King James II escapes to France.
- 1818 — Christmas Carol "Silent Night" is sung for first time in Austrian village of Oberndorf.
- 1897 — Italy cedes Kassala to Egypt.
- 1936 — Mysterious war lords in China release Chiang Kai-Shek after kidnapping him and holding him for 12 days.
- 1941 — Hong Kong surrenders to Japanese in World War II.
- 1959 — Soviet Union agrees to give financial and technical aid to Syria.
- 1963 — State of emergency is declared in Somalia frontier region of Kenya.
- 1969 — Israeli crews sail six gunboats, built for Israel but withheld by French government, out of Cherbourg harbour en route to Haifa.
- 1971 — Fire burns out hotel in Seoul, Korea, taking 139 lives.
- 1974 — City of Darwin, Australia, is devastated by cyclone.
- 1975 — Soviet Union sets off powerful underground nuclear explosion at testing site in Siberia.
- 1977 — Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin meets Egypt's President Anwar Sadat at Ismailia, Egypt, for peace talks.
- 1985 — Flowing rivers of lava flow from Mount Etna in Sicily after eruption and earthquake that kills one man and injure 12 other people when hotel collapses.
- 1986 — Iraqi Airways jetliner with 107 people aboard explodes and burns as it attempts forced landing at remote desert airstrip in Saudi Arabia, killing 62 people.
- 1987 — Nicaragua's Defence Ministry accuses Contra rebels of breaking Christmas ceasefire with several raids.
- 1988 — Passenger train and bus collide in northeast China, killing at least 46 people and injuring at least 54.



US Marines walk by a C130 transport plane after arriving at Howard Air Force base in Panama on May 12. The marines are part of some 1900 US combat troops sent to Panama by President George Bush (inset). (Reuters wirephoto)

## Panama operation drags on

## Political risk for Bush grows

WASHINGTON (AP): President George Bush's order to send US troops into combat in Panama, initially greeted with broad support in Congress, could backfire politically if casualties continue to mount and the United States becomes bogged down there.

The dangers are clear.

How high will the US death toll climb? Will deposed ruler Gen. Manuel Noriega continue to evade US forces that were once confident of capturing him?

Will the fragile government of Guillermo Endara, inaugurated under US guard and dependent on US power for his authority, take hold?

How long before US forces can be withdrawn?

The hazards were demonstrated after Bush declared the situation "pretty well wrapped up" Thursday and military officers described it as a mop-up operation.

On Friday, Noriega loyalists attacked the headquarters of US military forces and Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, commander in chief of the US Southern Command, said US forces were still fighting "a real war."

The stubborn resistance prompted the Defence Department to order an additional 2,000 soldiers

into Panama, backing up a force of nearly 24,000 already there.

For now, the political support for Bush's action seems to be holding.

"We're in the adrenalin-pumping stage, the first rally-around-the-flag moments," said Stephen Hess, a Brookings Institution senior fellow and specialist on the presidency. "There hasn't been any major downside but you can start seeing it coming."

William Schneider, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a political analyst, said, "The only question is whether it's going to work and whether it's going to work quickly."

"Americans don't like to make an open-ended commitment anywhere, particularly where it involves the loss of American lives," Schneider said. "Americans believe we should win or get out. In Grenada, we won. In Lebanon, we got out."

Bush said US forces will chase Noriega "as long as it takes." He said the deployment of combat troops in Panama is open-ended as the chase continues and US forces try to restore some semblance of order to the country.

Already, there are demands in Congress for US troops to be brought home quickly.

But Rep. Les Aspin, chairman of the House

Armed Services Committee, said some US forces might have to remain as police until "Christmas eve a year from now."

A military operation initially described as a three- to four-day mission now stretches into the indefinite future.

White House officials insist, however, that the operation is following the script they envisioned.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, briefed Bush last Sunday on the risks and "laid it out almost exactly as it materialised."

He said Powell accurately predicted Noriega would not be captured immediately, that hostages might be taken and that there would be a protracted period before US forces would wrest control of Panama City from Noriega's Panamanian defence forces and his so-called Dignity Battalions.

Fitzwater also said the US death count will not be large.

"It doesn't seem likely there would be large-scale engagements with large amounts of casualties," he said.

Before the invasion, US intelligence sources had reported that Noriega was drinking heavily and that his mental state had deteriorated.

## Romania's Communist Party discredited

## Little chances for survival

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): Discredited by Nicolae Ceausescu's harsh rule and its central role as his loyal cheerleader, the Communist Party in Romania appears to have little chance of staying at the helm.

Ceausescu, who had ruled since 1965 and cut off any attempt at organized opposition, was overthrown Friday. After his ouster, fierce battles raged in the country on Friday and Saturday, leaving hundreds dead and the future course of Romania's government uncertain.

In the bloodiest decision during his long rule, Ceausescu last weekend ordered the use of lethal force against protesters in the western Romanian city of Timisoara who had called for his overthrow.

The security forces killed several thousand people, including many children and women, and dumped their bodies into mass graves in a forest near the city, according to East European news media reports.

Ceausescu's use of deadly force, intended to perpetuate the last Stalinist regime in Eastern Europe, differed from recent communist responses to protesters in other Soviet bloc nations, where police stopped short of gunfire.

But Romania is different in many other ways from its Warsaw Pact allies. Ceausescu created a personality cult around himself that seemed to entangle the survival of the Communist Party with his own survival in power.

Much like North Korea's Kim Il Sung, Ceausescu created a family dynasty in Romania, with about 40 relatives reportedly placed in key state and party jobs.

"In Romania, the Communist Party existed only to clap and cheer Ceausescu. It hardly was a political party," said Ion Ratiu, chairman of the London-based World Union of Free Romanians.

"After Ceausescu's ouster, the Communist Party will likely crumble, unlike in Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany where a degree of divergent views was tolerated," said a Romanian exile from the US-financed Radio Free Europe radio station.

Mircea Stoica, a professor at Bucharest University who this week defected to Hungary, said a party congress last month where Ceausescu was "unanimously" elected for another five years, was "actually 90 per cent organized and run by the secret police."

"The 5,000 delegates to the congress, before entering the palace hall, were searched for alleged weapons like common criminals and had to pass through metal detectors. What bigger humiliation for a communist do you want?" Stoica said.

These comments appeared to be backed by a statement Friday by Ion Iliescu, a former Central Committee secretary ousted by Ceausescu in 1971, who announced the formation of the "National Salvation Front."

"We will establish a new structure of political power. The old structure of party and government was liquidated," Iliescu told a Bucharest crowd Friday.

"We will establish a provisional structure, which will prepare free elections in which the people will be the decisive factor for our public life," he said.

In a late night statement broadcast live by Romanian radio and television, Iliescu said the front "includes all healthy forces in our country and is supported by the Army," which joined protesters Friday against Ceausescu's security forces.

The front, described as the "new organism of state power" includes leading dissidents Doing Cornea, Ana Blandiana, Dumitru Mazilu, former Foreign

Minister Corneliu Manescu, former ambassador to the United States Silviu Brucan, three army generals and the Rev. Laszlo Toekes, the Protestant pastor of Hungarian extraction whose persecution sparked the revolt.

Iliescu said the front urges the abandonment of the leading role of a single party, the organization of free elections by April and pluralism. The name of the country should be changed to Romania from the Socialist Republic of Romania, he said.

Iliescu, 59, reported to be an old friend of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev from the year when both studied in Moscow, made no mention of the Communist Party.

"I know how opportunistic communists are. After Ceausescu's ouster, tens of thousands of them will throw away the red cards, saying they hated the party and its leaders," said Sandu Poberenicz of the World Union of Free Romania. The Romanian Communist Party has 3.8 million members.

The Army generals and other officials addressing each other Friday after Ceausescu's ouster used the word "domnul" (mister and not "comrade," which had been mandatory).

"The Romanian Communist Party had been the weakest in the whole of Eastern Europe before the war when it numbered less than 1,000 members," Ratiu said. "Its policy on international issues often ran counter to Romanian national aspirations."

"The party, for instance, advocate the cession of Bessarabia, now Soviet Moldavia, to the Soviet Union in 1940 and the Romanians considered it not just un-Romanian but also anti-Romanian," said Mihnea Berindei, vice-chairman of the Romanian League for Human Rights in Paris.

## Letters to the editor

## Teacher ratings

SIR: As a Fulbright Scholar sent from the United States to Kuwait to assist in the field of educational evaluation, I have followed with interest your recent articles on the ratings of teachers which have been submitted to the Ministry of Education. Concern apparently exists about inflated ratings and an overabundance of teachers rated as "excellent."

I write merely to share a few observations. First, that this problem is not uncommon in other systems and occurs in private and governmental bureaucracies outside of education as well. Further, there is a natural lack of incentive for supervisory personnel to rank their staffs poorly since they must work productively with these same persons day in and day out. In America, at least, lower rankings would normally not affect tenure or salary, leaving a supervisor to wonder "Why criticize?" Finally, to truly know the quality of a teacher's work involves more time in observation than a supervisor is normally given. In the face of this reality, teachers are given the benefit of the doubt.

W. James Popham and others have written at length about the confusion over methods and purposes in teacher evaluation. One trenchant analysis concludes that the field should be defined as "formative" and termed "teacher development." In other words, we are so far from having definitive means for making conclusive ("summative") evaluations that assure fairness and due process, that the pursuit should be redefined in a just and defensible manner.

Teaching is not alone when it comes to the question of objective, definitive evaluation. Think of other occupations like government at large, health fields, social work, and, in fact, journalism.

Paul Shaker, Safat

## Not news but fiction

SIR: I am writing in reference to the recent week-long series in the Arab Times about mixed-marriages, specifically among Arab men and non-Arab women (mostly English speaking).

If I didn't know better I'd think I was reading the National Enquirer and not a bona fide "news" paper. Not only was that hardly news, but it was also only half, or less than half, of the picture. Even then, the picture was so distorted and misrepresented that it became fiction.

It's a pity that all English-speaking women are classified as money-hungry, air-headed dimwits, because that is exactly what that entire article made us look like.

Now, let's hear the real story...

We love our husbands, and remain true to them through thick and thin. We've given up a very high standard of living for a newly developing country that doesn't even have clean, hot and cold running water. Those of us who do have an unfortunate outcome to our marriages stay in Kuwait with our children, instead of running away from the problem, because we have a far better chance of getting help and support here, due to the way people care about their fellow-men. Finally and most importantly — contrary to the article — we become Muslims not because we want an inheritance, or to fit into society, or because our husbands forced us, but we are Muslims because we love Islam, because Islam is the truth, and because Islam is the ideal way of life. We aren't only nominal Muslims, but we dress and act like Muslims as well, and I really pity and wonder about the woman called "Jennifer." In the first article — she claims herself to have converted to Islam, but in the next breath says she felt sad in her heart that her teenage daughter wears the "hijab" (the Islamic dress)! Well, that's sad, because the hijab is one of the most basic duties of a Muslim.

Now, I propose and challenge the Arab Times instead of printing only the negative and insulting part of the stories, why do you not interview our side without omitting 95 per cent of what is important.

Mia Porzo, Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Quote me

"There are attempts to make you believe that I am working on behalf of someone, that I want to dissolve the party, the state and the (Soviet) federation. One should not say, as some people do, that Gorbachev is sitting in two chairs. I say I am sitting in my own chair, which is the one you put me in. I am a communist and remain proud of it." — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on events in the Union and the East bloc.

"Whatever they try, the imperialists will never bend Cuba to their will, and they won't be able to keep Latin America under submission for ever." — Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the US aggression in Panama.

"In these historical moments, the Ministry of the Interior and all its units are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Romanian Army for the survival of the national being and of the Romanian people... The people should help us and we will not betray their trust." — A Romanian general appealing for unity in the aftermath of Ceausescu's ouster.

"While we must be clear as to the ideological direction we take... namely Marxist-Leninist socialist principles, we must also take full cognisance of the environment and the concrete realities in which we seek to achieve social transformation." — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to his party's congress.

"To win this victory, the people of Romania have paid a heavy price: the yoke of tyranny throughout long years the massacre of innocent people in the course of recent weeks." — The 12-nation European Economic Community in a statement from its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on Ceausescu's ouster from power.

"In our country, there was a slogan chanted, 'We are not like them.' You should ask for a just punishment for Ceausescu. But not the death penalty. Stop the wave of violence. Otherwise it will flow over all of Europe." — Czechoslovak opposition leader Vaclav Havel pleading with Romanians "in the name of our Velvet revolution not to take violent revenge."

"Democracy cannot be brought at the ends of bayonets, or through bombing from the air. It cannot be affirmed by machine-gunning. The use of force against that state is incompatible with international law." — Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Belonogov counselling the US ambassador.



NEWS IN BRIEF

North America

**Chimney rescue:** Firefighters insist the man they pulled out of a chimney wasn't really auditioning for Santa Claus' job, he was just trying to get home in time for Christmas.

The 20-year-old man's family was locked out of their house Saturday in suburban Los Angeles. They decided the best way to get inside was for him to go down the chimney, said city fire department spokesman Jim Wells.

The victim, who was not identified, was about halfway down when he got stuck, Wells said.

Firefighters used a sledgehammer and a battering ram to poke a hole in the chimney, then pulled him out, the spokesman said. The man escaped with minor scratches. (AP)

**Tremor rattles Washington:** A moderate earthquake shook western Washington state early Sunday. No damage or injuries were reported.

The quake, measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale, struck at about 12:46 am (0746 GMT), said Bill Schneider of the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. He said the epicentre was located about 40 miles (64 kms) south of Tacoma, Washington.

People from the Canadian border to Portland, Oregon, reported feeling the tremor. Les Leland of Kgeu Radio in Olympia said the shaking lasted about four seconds.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in magnitude. An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter scale can cause slight damage in the local area, 4 moderate damage, and 5 considerable damage. (AP)

**Last Kwaaymii Indian dies:** Tomas Lucas, the last full-blooded Kwaaymii Indian has died at age 87 in the Laguna Mountains region that was home to his ancestors for centuries.

Lucas, who retold his tribe's history and described its cultural traditions for audiences ranging from anthropologists to elementary school children, died Thursday, said his daughter, Carmen Lucas.

In his final days, Lucas contracted pneumonia, she said.

"He knew he was dying. He told us so," she said. "He told us of his disturbing dream, where he was surrounded by angels. But when he reached out to touch them, their wings turned to paper." (AP)

**Canadian diplomat, dies:** William Frank Stone, a career diplomat and expert in Canadian trade policy, has died of cancer. He was 66.

Recognised as an authority on trade dispute mechanisms, he was frequently consulted on the institutional and environmental aspects of the Canada-US free-trade agreement during its negotiation.

Asia

**Quake recorded:** A strong earthquake was recorded in the vicinity of the Marianas Islands, the Hong Kong observatory reported Sunday.

The observatory said the quake was recorded at 7:30 pm (1130 GMT) on Saturday, registering a preliminary magnitude of 5.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

The quake's epicentre was near the Marianas Islands about 520 kilometres (322 miles) northeast of Guam, the observatory said.

Europe

**Epidemic forces school closure:** Moscow schoolchildren will have December 25 off this year but the reason is an influenza epidemic rather than official recognition of Christmas.

The Moscow newspaper Vechernaya Moskva said the spread of the influenza virus had so depleted classes that authorities had brought forward the start of new year school holidays.

However, Christmas Day has been declared a public holiday in the predominantly Protestant and Catholic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for the first time since they were absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940.

The Russian Orthodox Church, the dominant religion in Moscow and other parts of the Russia federation, the largest Soviet republic, celebrates Christmas on January 7. (Reuters)

**New Forum to contest poll:** East Germany's umbrella opposition group New Forum announced on Sunday it would contest free elections next May, shedding its past reluctance to enter fully into the political arena.

The group told the official news agency ADN its main aim would remain overseeing East Germany's transition to democracy but that it would also put up its own candidates for the Volkskammer (Parliament).

Africa

**Road-death toll rises to 160:** At least 37 people died in three separate accidents on the country's road Saturday, raising to 160 the number of people killed since the start of the summer school holidays on Dec 12, state-run television reported.

Ascertaining the precise number of dead was difficult, as many of the victims had been cremated, a police spokesman said.

Four people, including a baby, died and four were injured in a three-car accident near Pretoria in Transvaal province, the SABC said.

Many South Africans travel to holiday resorts on



Meeting of minds

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu (left), confers with the Latin patriarch, Archbishop Michael Sabbah, the Roman Catholic leader in Jerusalem. On a Christmas visit to the holy land, Tutu will meet Christian and Muslim religious leaders and deliver a Christmas mass in Bethlehem. (Reuters wirephoto)

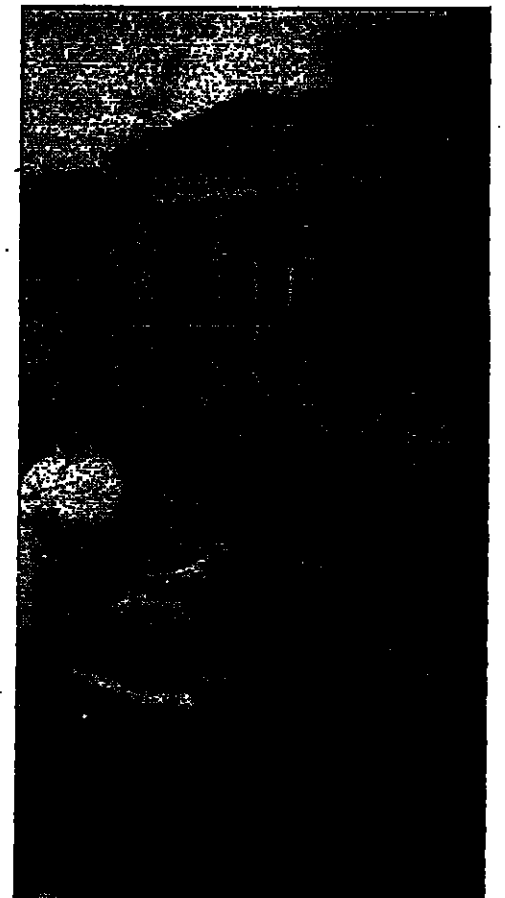
Slovene communists pledge support for democracy

**BELGRADE, Dec 24 (AP):** The Communist Party in Yugoslavia's liberal state of Slovenia pledged today it will work to build a Western-style democracy in the country.

"In the future, we shall participate in government in accordance with the support awarded to us in free elections by the voters," Ciril Ribicic, the party's newly elected leader, told delegates to a regional party congress.

"We shall strive for the creation of a multiparty system," Ribicic said at the close of the meeting.

Slovene communists under Milan Kucan, the regional party's outgoing leader, have moved quickly over the past three years to create a pluralist political system in the republic, despite harsh criticism from Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics where communist leaders are



Worth waiting

People stand in line at the Brandenburg Gate to cross the border to West Germany. East Germany had opened two new border crossings on both sides of the gate one day before. (Reuters wirephoto)

Police atrocity

Reporter shot

**MEXICO CITY, Dec 24 (AP):** A band of city police officers allegedly robbed a newspaper reporter and shot her in the head and severely beat two other journalists at a downtown street corner, news reports said.

Five officers yesterday allegedly confronted reporters Elvira de Marcelo Esquivel of the Mexico City newspaper El Dia, Israel Rodriguez of the government newspaper El Nacional and Eduardo Barrera Valencia of Channel 11 on Balderas Street, a busy city thoroughfare, the Excelsior news agency reported.

The officers allegedly beat and pistol-whipped the reporters and shot Ms Esquivel in the head, Excelsior said.

the coast from industrial and mining areas in the land-locked Transvaal and Orange Free State provinces when school holidays begin. (UPI)

**33 killed in accidents:** A bus carrying gold miners home for the holidays overturned, and another bus caught fire while most of its passengers were asleep, killing a total of at least 33 people, police said Saturday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At least 22 people died in the fire, which broke out Friday night on a bus which had stopped along a highway near the central city of Bloemfontein because of mechanical problems. Police said most of the 95 passengers were sleeping at the time.

Eleven men were killed and 20 injured when a bus carrying mine workers to the black homeland of Transkei overturned in southern Natal province, police said. (AP)

**Gabon bans elephant hunting:** President Omar Bongo has banned elephant hunting and ivory trade throughout this Central African country, government officials said Saturday.

Bongo issued the decree during a cabinet meeting Friday, officials said. The ruling suspends certificates already granted to hunt elephants or to sell or work ivory.

The ban follows a decision at the September Conference of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species to forbid its member nations to traffic in ivory. (AP)

Latin America

**UK police to help probe:** Three British detectives will fly to El Salvador to help investigate the murders of six Jesuit priests last month, Scotland Yard said Saturday.

The Foreign Office said President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador had asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for help in investigating the deaths. Scotland Yard said the team, led by detective Chief Superintendent Tony Comben was being sent to the capital San Salvador on Jan 2. (AP)

**Guns fall silent:** Guns fell silent across El Salvador on Saturday after leftist guerrillas declared a truce in a fierce six-week offensive for Christmas and the New Year, the armed forces said.

"There's nothing relevant today," an armed forces spokesman told Reuters, the morning after Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels called an 11-day unilateral truce starting at midnight.

He said there was sporadic combat on the flanks of the San Salvador volcano overlooking the capital up to an hour before the guerrillas officially held their fire, but no one was injured. (Reuters)

**10 Colombians soldiers killed:** Leftist guerrillas from the nation's largest insurgent group ambushed an army patrol in southern Colombia on Saturday, killing 10 soldiers, an army communique said.

The attack came just hours after another leftist guerrilla group, the April 19 movement, announced it had suspended a tentative peace pact after Congress failed to approve key parts of the accord. (AP)

**Christmas tragedy:** Four people died Saturday when hundreds of people rushed to grab Christmas gifts that the mayor threw from the balcony of the town hall, police said in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

A television report showed the crowd surging to catch the gifts. It also aired footage of people trying to revive the victims through artificial resuscitation.

Drop in defence budget

**TOKYO, Dec 24 (Reuters):** Japan's defence budget is set to slip next year below the key level of one per cent of gross national product, though actual military spending will rise, Finance Ministry officials said today.

Strong growth of the Japanese economy means a proposed 5.5 per cent increase in 1990-91 defence spending, to 4.14 trillion yen (\$29 billion), will still put it beneath one per cent of GNP for the first time in four years.

But the drop back below the controversial defence spending ceiling scrapped by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1987 has less to do with thawing East-West tensions than with the booming Japanese economy.

"At this stage, we remain very prudent and cautious (about East-West relations)," one official told reporters.

Nakasone's decision to scrap the 11-year-old ceiling in 1987, aiming to increase Japanese self-reliance in defence, was criticised by some of its neighbours in Asia who were worried about a possible resurgence of Japanese militarism.

Tokyo's defence budget is the third biggest in the world, after the United States and the Soviet Union, but that is partly because of high personnel expenses.

The draft budget proposed by the Finance Ministry for the fiscal year beginning in April calls for the 5.5 per cent increase in defence spending, following a 5.9 per cent rise this year. The Defence Agency has asked for a 6.35 per cent increase.

Finance Ministry officials said they rejected many Defence Agency requests for new equipment, including 30 new tanks and a 1.36 billion yen (\$940 million) destroyer with a sophisticated Argos weapons system.

China concerned

'Socialism has not failed'

**BEIJING, Dec 24 (AP):** China's foreign minister, in remarks published yesterday, said events in East Europe were destabilising but expressed optimism that an easing of superpower confrontation would lead to a long period of peace.

In a year-end policy overview, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said "drastic changes" in East Europe "have accumulated new elements of instability in the East-West relations and will produce a far-reaching impact on the European situation."

He denied that the collapse of Communist Party rule in East European countries was an ideological defeat for the left.

"Socialism has not failed and there is no ground to claim a success of capitalism either," he said.

Qian's comments, to be carried in the next edition of the news magazine Liaowang (outlook), were excerpted by the official Xinhua news agency.

Qian said military confrontation between the two superpowers had subsided in the second half of the 1980s, "and it has become possible to see a relatively long period of peace."

He said economic burdens from the military rivalry and several failed invasions against other countries had "relatively degraded the positions of the United States and the Soviet Union."

Qian predicted that after the Malta summit the two superpowers will continue to be rivals but "will step into an era where there will be less confrontation".



Christmas gift

The Chinese government gave a Christmas present to Beijing Catholics on Saturday — it returned St. Michael's church more than three decades after it was confiscated for secular use.

Pale winter sunlight gleamed through the few remaining stained glass windows as more than 200 Catholics, led by Bishop Fu Tieshan, reconsecrated the 87-year-old Gothic building with song and prayer.

"I can't see the music very well but I remember it," said white-haired brother Zhang Delong, who played the new organ to accompany the choir as it sang a traditional Latin Mass.

The church, whose gray brick spires tower over a tree-lined street in central Beijing, was built in 1902 to serve the foreign diplomatic community. The communist government seized it in 1958 and made it a school.

(Reuters wirephoto)

75 pc of missiles destroyed

**GENEVA, Dec 24 (Reuters):** Nearly three-quarters of the combined superpower arsenals of medium-range nuclear missiles have been destroyed, US officials said this week.

They said the two sides have demolished nearly 1,900 missiles of the approximately 2,700 held by both sides, half-way through the three-year destruction period in the US-Soviet Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

The smooth operation of the first treaty to eliminate an entire class of superpower nuclear weapons — ground-based missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 km (300 to 3,500 miles) — was important for building confidence for future pacts.

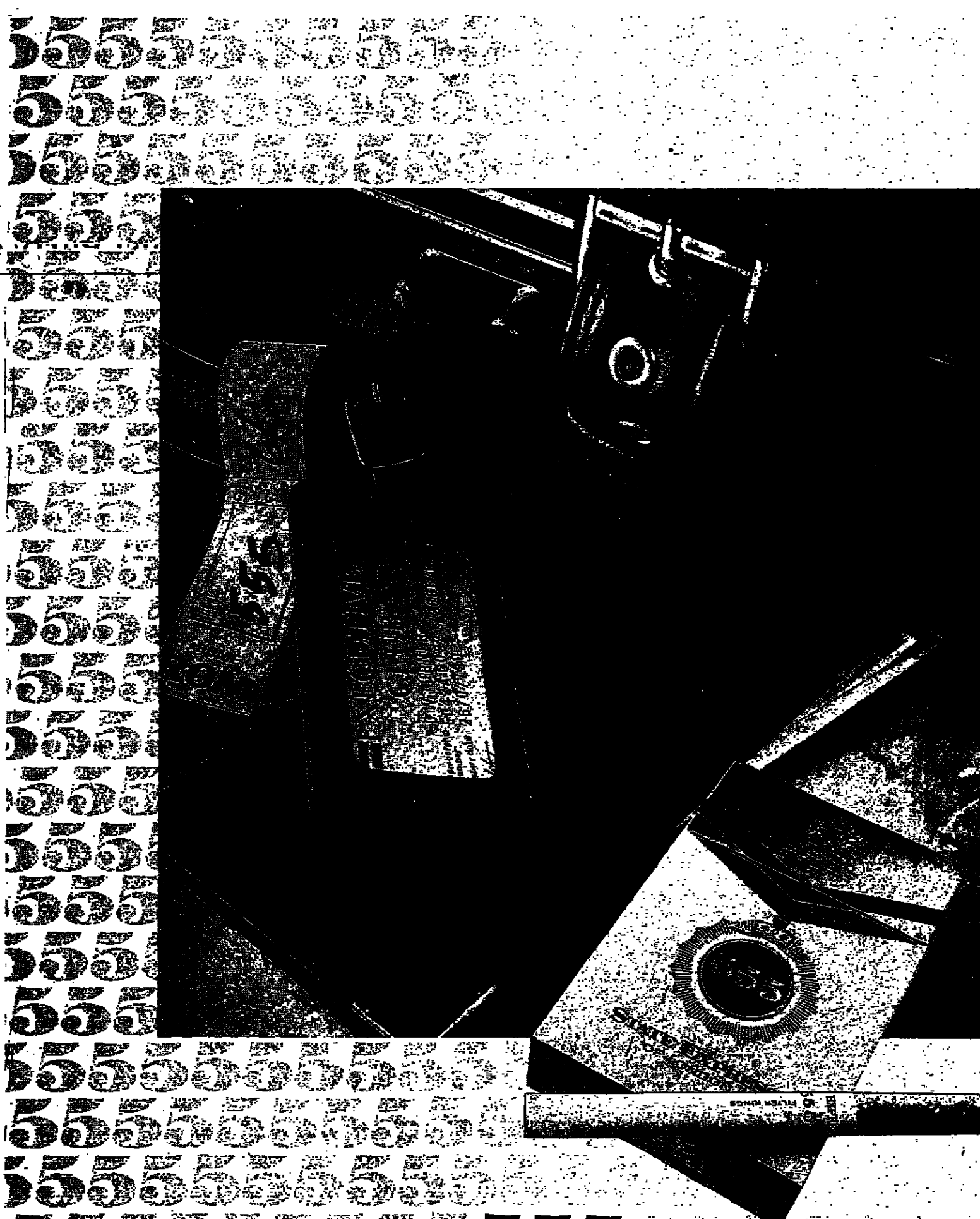
"We've been very conscious of the precedent we'd set for other treaties," said one official who has been working with the Soviet side on verifying neither side is cheating.

Some of the intrusive verification measures in the INF treaty are being used in a long-range missile treaty now being negotiated.

The officials said all the shorter-range INF missiles have now gone — 239 Soviet SS-20s and 118 SS-12s along with 169 US Pershing-1As.

Explosion

**BATON ROUGE, La., Dec 24 (Reuters):** A massive explosion today rocked the Exxon Co. refinery in Baton Rouge, the second-largest US oil refinery, officials said.



555 Stands out for taste



## KUWAIT ... GULF

# Arabs urged to be partners in change

## Breaking US-Israel bond a priority

KUWAIT, Dec 24. (Kuna): A Kuwaiti newspaper today urged Arab countries to make the most of the fundamental change sweeping East Europe, saying they must be active participants in current world affairs and not mere idle watchers.

Commenting editorially on the drastic reforms in the eastern bloc countries, a local Kuwaiti daily said emphatically that the remainder of the century will see the end of communism as a system and way of life.

The paper, while paying tribute to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev for ushering in a new era by ridding his country of the arms race against the West, indicated that Arabs must now work to make the US do away with Israel as an alleged forward post in the face of communism in the region.

It emphasised that the huge global political changes must not be left for Zionism to

employ for its own interests and against the Arab world.

The paper indicated that as communism is crumbling, Arabs would be well advised to seek to undermine the bond between the United States and Israel, and as such between Americans and Zionism.

"At any rate, let's try to be partners in this world and not mere bystanders," the paper concluded.

**Demise**

Another local newspaper saw the changes in Eastern Europe as bringing the Warsaw Pact to an untimely death.

In an editorial comment on the events in Romania and Panama, the Kuwaiti daily said the developments in those two countries appear to be agreed in advance by US President George Bush and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The paper believed Gorbachev's support

for the anti-government uprising in Romania and Bush's decision to invade Panama, though surprising they are, were possibly "part of an unwritten pact between the two superpower leaders."

"Events that now look like crude deviations from the internationally accepted principles were part of the new spirit of reconciliation," between the two leaders, according to the paper.

It added that the events in Romania and Moscow's pledge of support for the rebels have "unveiled" the Kremlin's previous neutrality to less violent changes in other Warsaw Pact allies.

It indicated that the bloodshed in Romania and the Soviet backing to the opposition in a Communist ally were signals that the Warsaw Pact was nearing its end "before its natural demise."



Traffic training course

Under the patronage of the director-general of the Police Academy Brigadier Khaled Mohammad Al Munaiyes, a special ceremony was held at the Non-commissioned Officers Institute at the Police Academy yesterday to mark the conclusion of the first specialist traffic training course.

The seven-week course, which began November 11 was attended by 17 non-commissioned officers.

Present at the ceremony were senior officers of the institute.

## Officials propose establishment of national information bank

MANY officials have raised the importance of establishing a national information bank in Kuwait or an information network to link information gathering centres in the country with each other. They said that establishing such a bank will prevent repetition of information among authorities and will contribute in cutting down the efforts of employees in searching for such information in addition to cost rationalisation.

A local daily interviewed a number of officials to highlight their opinions on establishing a national information bank in the country.

Dr Issa Mohammed Jasem, director of the Educational Researches Centre said that "we live today in the age on information stating that any modification operation cannot possibly occur without providing the necessary information particularly in the field of decision making." He stressed that an information bank is important for each researcher or decision maker.

Due to the huge amount of information, various parties look forward to establishing this type of bank or centre due to their role in making information available on internal and external levels. He said that the establishment of a national information bank will save effort and money. Therefore, such a project is required to link all information centres to generalise benefits for all and to unify efforts.

Regarding the spread of information centres and data bases in Kuwait, Feryal Al Fraih, director of the National Information Centre at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said that the phenomenon of the vast spread of information centres and data bases in Kuwait is quite a healthy phenomenon. She said the KISR has since long exerted efforts to establish a national information bank. However, she said that it is still beneficial to have separate information centres each with different specialities to achieve maximum benefit for decision makers and researchers.

Meanwhile, Dr Faten Faheem said that Kuwait is currently suffering from scarcity of national technical manpower particularly in the field of analysis and designing data systems of computers. He added establishing a national information bank will play an important role in cutting down the repetition of data bases and will save effort and money. He added that the diversity of data bases and information centres in Kuwait has created unnecessary computer systems and establishing that bank will evidently lead to a more strategic method in utilising information. He stressed that it is necessary to establish a comprehensive authority in order to apply plans and co-ordinate such efforts. He added that University of Kuwait computer system is only 25 per cent exploited stressing that establishing a national information centre is a developing essentiality.

## Industrial authority to be set up: Khaled

THE establishment of a public authority empowered to lead existing industrial areas in the country will see the light within the coming two years, Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled, minister of commerce and industry said.

The proposed industrial facility is part of the recommendations and proposals stated in the joint economic committee report issued on Dec 5, the official said.

At a symposium on development of industrial areas yesterday, Khaled said that preparations for establishing the proposed facility are ongoing and disclosed that more than one industrial agency in country is involved with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry spearheading activities to enhance the Shuaiba Industrial Area experiment to cover all industrial areas.

Khaled said that the proposed project is a major step to furnish the authority with powers as the ministry is not satisfied with the operations of many existing industrial areas.

Efforts continue to be exerted by the ministry to issue a law for managing the industrial area and a second draft law is being formulated.

The official said that Kuwaiti industries suffer identical problems encountered by industries in the region. A special committee has been entrusted with developing industries sponsored by both the private and public sector.

He added that the national industries still needed allocation of more land for establishment of industrial projects at symbolic fees, provision of needed water and electrical power—all at subsidised prices.

A comparative study has been undertaken to compare incentives provided to Kuwaiti industrial projects with those offered to their counterparts by the neighbouring Gulf states. Results indicate that Kuwaiti incentives are poor by comparison and this remains the main obstacle for industrial prosperity in the country. This is vividly reflected in the balance of exports versus imports of industrial products to the Gulf countries.

# Legal Clinic

IF you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Tahir replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

**I AM** a government employee. My wife came to Kuwait on a domestic visa in 1987. She has knowledge of office work and has worked in an office before. A company wants to employ her on visa No. 18, and has already applied for a visa. But now she is seven months pregnant. After a check-up, the doctor advised her not to travel. So, she won't be able to cancel her No. 20 visa and return on the fresh work permit. After delivery, if she cancels the visa No. 20, and took the child with her, can she return and bring the child with her?

Secondly, can she deliver a baby here, considering the fact that she is on visa No. 20? Will there be any problem to repatriate the child to our country? What is the procedure? Do we have to pay any fine? What are the formalities that are to be completed? Please advise.

immigration department to bring the child. If both parents are working, in most cases the salary limit is not required. And if the immigration department accepts your application and grants a visa for the child, you can bring him.

**I WAS** recruited in India by a private company in 1983. My original contract was for two years, and thereafter renewable for a period of one year. In 1985, a new two year contract was signed, repeating the previous contract terms and conditions. In 1987, a similar contract was signed for a one year period. The next year, a two year contract was made; this expires in Nov 1990.

I want to return permanently to my country this month. Please let me know the eligibility of end of service indemnity and the return ticket in my case.

An employee

**IF YOU** return in Dec 1989, it means that you are not completing the two years contract which you signed with the company.

If you decide to go back before the expiry of the contract, it would be considered as a resignation.

If you resign, you're entitled to 7.5 days salary for the first five years of service and 15 days for the subsequent years.

As you have not sent a copy of your contract, I'm giving a general answer to your query. If you need specifics, I prefer to see a copy of the contract before giving proper advice.

**I HAVE** been offered a job as a teacher in a school in Kuwait. The school authorities want to give me a new residence under their sponsorship. Please advise if I can get a local release after the termination of my job with the school? In such a case, can I get the residence under my husband's sponsorship?

A teacher

In a majority of cases, the authorities now reject any application for a local transfer of residence from work permit to family visa.

In the event of termination of service,

you'll have to leave the country and re-enter on a family visa. This depends on whether or not your husband is eligible to sponsor you under the salary limit rules. A husband must earn at least K.D.630 a month to sponsor his wife. If your husband is eligible, you can re-enter on a fresh family visa.

**I AM** from Czechoslovakia currently working in Iraq. I would like to find employment in Kuwait. I would appreciate if you could answer the following queries:

1) Whom should I contact to seek a job in Kuwait? Is there a list of companies giving job offers?

2) What are the regulations to enter Kuwait on a work permit? What type of visa is required and where can I apply for it?

M.H.

IN KUWAIT, there are no known employment agencies which supply people with information relating to job offers.

A job can be obtained by answering advertisements in local or foreign newspapers. Sometimes, employers from Kuwait recruit people in Europe and Asia. In such instances, they advertise in the country of origin, in your case Czechoslovakia.

When a person has obtained a job, and a contract has been signed, he has to submit his passport, photocopy of passport and four photographs to his employer.

A work permit, or visa No. 18, is required. This is issued on the request of an employer, who is known as a sponsor. After receiving the documents from an employee, the sponsor applies to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for a work permit. This procedure takes about a month. Once a No-Objection Certificate is issued, an employee is called to Kuwait by the employer.

After the person's arrival in Kuwait, the work permit is stamped on the passport by the Immigration Department for the duration of the contract.



PAAET computer training course

A new training course on computers for government employees was opened at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. 22 employees from several ministries are taking part in the course aimed at providing introduction to computers with application on the BASIC language.

## Sabah returns home from Euro-Arab conference

KUWAIT, Dec 24. (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home yesterday concluding a two-day visit to Paris where he led the Kuwaiti delegation to the Euro-Arab conference.

Positive outcome will surface during the next six months as a result of credibility and understanding which prevailed during the meeting, Sheikh Sabah exclusively told Kuna upon his arrival.

Sheikh Sabah noted that the European side has pledged to study the need to lift economic sanctions against two Arab states during next meeting.

The Europeans also stressed support to the Palestinian question and the Lebanese legitimacy as well as to support efforts made by UN Secretary-General to implement Security Council Resolution 598 regarding the peace in the Arab Gulf, Sheikh Sabah added.

Sheikh Sabah, in his statement, also praised the support that the meeting got from French President Francois Mitterrand and Moroccan King Hassan II.

The invitation by Mitterrand to hold the Euro-Arab ministerial meeting in Paris helped the emergence of a new Euro-Arab dialogue.

## Palestine charity week

KUWAIT, Dec 24. (Kuna): Charity Committee for the support of Palestine and Lebanon announced in a communique distributed here today that it will hold its Third Palestinian Week next Tuesday at the Mishref Fair Grounds for the support of the families of martyrs, victims and prisoners in the occupied territory.

The committee said the Third Palestinian Week which would be under the theme "Our Children Share the Glories of Palestine," would consist of charity dishes, a bazaar and a photo and painting exhibition portraying Palestinian heroic feats during the uprising as well as photos of different activities achieved by the committee in Lebanon and Palestine.

The communique affirmed the continuance of its project "The Uprising's Portfolio" aimed at collecting one million Kuwaiti dinars the profits of which would be used to expedite relief material to the Palestinian people and support the uprising which has entered its third year this month.

## Symposium

KUWAIT, Dec 24. (Kuna): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in co-operation with Kuwait University and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences will sponsor a symposium Dec 29-31 on official data and its role in scientific research.

Chairman of the organizing committee Feryal Al Fraih told Kuna that the symposium, to be patronized by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, will tackle, among other things, the problems confronting parties concerned with producing and distributing information.

She said that 100 participants, representing various government institutions will take part at the three-day event.

# Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed builds Irish racing empire

DUBLIN, Dec 24. (Reuters): Sheikh Mohammed, who reigned supreme over European horse racing at the end of the 1980s, is putting the finishing touches to an Irish racing empire that should help stretch his dominance into the next decade.

The fabulously wealthy Dubai owner scooped four of the five Irish classics this year. Now, with six studs dotted around Ireland, he looks set to maintain that extraordinary record with his 1990 generation of equine superstars.

Michael Osborne, who runs the Sheikh's showpiece Kildangan Stud and is general manager of his Irish breeding operation, said of the Dubai racing dynasty: "They have improved the quality of racing in Europe."

"They have tilted the balance of power back from the United States. It is now the strongest in the world."

But Osborne is quick to dispel any charges that Sheikh Mohammed and his brothers are dominating horse racing to an unhealthy degree. "In 1988 they won only 10 per cent of the races run

here. That is not domination," he said. But what about the four Irish classic wins with Shaadi, Enconsee, Old Vic and Alydaree? "He just happened to have the best in that age group. Somebody has to win. It just happened to be him."

### Operations

Sheikh Mohammed is now negotiating the purchase in Ireland of Old Connell Stud for about two million pounds (\$3 million). After a two-year renovation programme is completed, the stud will be used to house mares.

"With that purchase, his operations in Ireland will be complete," Osborne said. The jewel in the six-stud crown is Kildangan, the 1,500 acre establishment where Sheikh Mohammed has two resident stallions, sure Blade and Shaadi, winner of this year's Irish 2,000 guineas.

"Sure Blade has his first runners next season. We are very pleased with them. Shaadi is fully booked with mares for the 1990 season," Osborne said.

Kildangan employs 110 people, a major boost to the Irish racing industry which most breeders, trainers and officials agree is in a state of crisis.

They all argue that the government should inject more money from off-course betting levies for Irish racing to survive on the international front. British raiders plundered eight of Ireland's nine group one races this year, taking away 1.25 million pounds (almost \$2 million) in prize money.

**Restoration** Osborne says the Sheikh's Irish racing empire has helped somewhat to restore the confidence of Irish racing people.

"It would be wrong to say that it has restored it completely, but it is a stimulus to Ireland. He is a major employer in the industry," he said.

What then is the big attraction to Sheikh Mohammed of Ireland where horse racing ranks alongside Guinness Stout as one of the greatest national passions?

"He is very pleased with the way that horses develop in Ireland. They do well here. He loves the

informality of Ireland. Land is also half the price it is in Newmarket (headquarters of British racing) and there is a huge pool of experienced people in Ireland for him to draw on in racing," Osborne said.

Reviewing the Sheikh's "Emerald Isle" operation, Osborne said a total of 130 yearlings are born at the studs every year. Most of his racing progeny are destined for Britain and France but 40 will be in training in Ireland next year, six have recently been sent to Italy and a clever trick filly is returning to America.

Sheikh Mohammed's first Irish purchase in 1983 was the Woodpark Stud. It was extensively rebuilt before he handed it over to his elder brother Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, now himself a hugely successful owner thanks to the magnificent 1989 exploits of the ground-devouring Epsom Derby winner Nashwan.

The Epsom Derby is the one racing gem that still eludes Sheikh Mohammed. Only the rashest of racing forecasters would deny his chances of achieving that elusive goal in the 1990s.

كرد / احوال







## SPECIAL REPORT

## 'Monster' denounced

World-wide offer of help

## Support pours in

NEW YORK, Dec 24, (AP)—Romania's diplomatic envoys around the world, who themselves had been vilified as representatives of Nicolae Ceausescu, were switching sides and denouncing the deposed leader as a "monster" and a "murderer."

Meanwhile, at least four nations — France, Norway, Belgium and Netherlands — said they viewed the leaders of the Romanian revolt, the National Salvation Committee, as the legitimate representative of the Romanian people.

In at least two dozen countries, ambassadors from Romania declared over the weekend that they backed the provisional government in Bucharest.

Most foreign governments stopped short of extending formal recognition, but offered encouragement to anti-Ceausescu forces, promised humanitarian aid to Romania and expressed horror at the mounting death toll.

Romanian ambassadors in at least eight western European nations — France, Italy, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands — said they supported the popular uprising in their homeland.

So did envoys in at least three Eastern European countries that were themselves swept by recent pro-democracy upheavals — Poland, East Germany and Bulgaria.

The embassies in China and the Soviet Union both backed the revolt. China had been a staunch Ceausescu ally, and the Romanian leader had backed the June crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

"We will work to support the supreme will of our people and our nation," Romania's minister-counselor in Beijing, Stefan Nastasescu, said today.

The Israeli government today welcomed the emergence of a new leadership in Romania, although it did not extend formal recognition. The Romanian ambassador to Israel had earlier said he supported the uprising.

The revolt presented Israel with something of a diplomatic dilemma, as Ceausescu had for two decades been the sole East bloc ally of the Jewish state and had served as an intermediary with Arab nations.

Romania's ambassador in Iran, which Ceausescu had visited only days earlier, pledged allegiance to the forces that toppled him.

Other Romanian embassies backing the revolt were those in Canada, Yugoslavia, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Turkey, Jordan, the Sudan and Egypt.

The Romanian ambassador to Cairo, Ion Angelescu, today called Ceausescu a "murderer" and said the uprising represented the will of the people.

Belgium's Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said today the Belgian government officially recognized the National Salvation Committee as the "lawful authority" in Romania. Speaking on the national radio, he expressed hope that it would "be able to get complete control of the situation."

The French Foreign Ministry, in a short statement today, said it also considers the National Salvation Committee the legal authority in Romania.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, too, said that the Dutch government regards Romania's National Salvation Committee "as the institution representing the Romanian people," but added formal recognition would be postponed until the situation there has become "more clear."

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Knut Willebaek had said yesterday his country had decided to support the provisional government.

Other governments indicated they considered formal recognition premature even though they wholeheartedly supported the insurgents.

"We are following our rules and recognize states, not governments," Stockholm radio today quoted Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson as saying. A government should have reasonable control over its territory, he said, and the insurgents did not yet have that control.

Egypt expressed hope the revolt would bring "democracy and freedom" to Romania and indicated it would maintain ties with whatever leadership emerged.

"We have diplomatic relations with Romania as a state, regardless of the ruling regime," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid said too.

In some cases, Romanian envoys throwing their support to the uprising had themselves been the targets of anger only days earlier, as Ceausescu's government was violently repressing the dissent.

Constantin Stancu, Romania's ambassador to the Netherlands, was jeered on Friday in the Hague by anti-Ceausescu protesters who called him a "bandit." The next day, he sided with the insurgents.

The Romanian ambassador in

LONDON, Dec 24, (Agencies)—Support for the embattled people of Romania has poured in from around the world, with offers of prayer and assistance coming from the East and the West.

In Moscow, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told the national Parliament that his country was standing by with unspecified aid for forces that had overthrown hardline ruler Nicolae Ceausescu.

Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov all but ruled out military intervention, saying, "we have to support them from the point of view of medical help and maybe some other kinds of help, but to bring in forces, I think that's impermissible."

In Eastern and Western Europe, appeals were launched for money, food and medical supplies for the Romanian people.

The French government announced it was sending two planes carrying 30 tons of medical equipment and a medical team to Romania.

Polish Health Minister Andrzej Kosiniak-Kamysz sought blood donations for injured Romanians and appealed to surgeons and other medical workers to state their readiness to go to Romania "when circumstances allow."

Britain said it was sending emergency medical supplies, including equipment for treating gunshot wounds and providing blood transfusions.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry offered to airlift medical aid and the Israeli doctors association began collecting names of volunteers to join the airlift.

Sweden pledged \$3.1 million in medical and food assistance.

The Hungarian radio reported that Romanian border guards were blocking Hungarian aid from entering.

Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar instructed the embassy in Bucharest to contact the National Salvation Committee to express support for the "courageous struggle of the Romanian people for democracy."

In Czechoslovakia, the opposition Social Democrats told the CTK news agency that it "resolutely condemns brutal repressions of the Stalinist regime in Romania, welcomes the fall of bloody dictator Ceausescu and wishes the Romanian people many successes on the path towards a democratic society."

The Dutch Foreign Ministry quoted Romanian ambassador Constantin Stancu as saying "the (Romanian) Foreign Ministry is squarely behind" the provisional government in Bucharest.

But China, long a staunch ally of Romania, had little comment. A Foreign Ministry statement called the upheaval an internal affair and expressed hope that strong bilateral relations would not be affected.

Romania's diplomatic missions in Iran, Israel, China, Libya, Switzerland, Jordan, Sweden, Turkey, Greece, Poland, Spain, Italy, France, East Berlin and Bangladesh threw themselves behind the National Salvation Committee.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga publicly rebuked Romanian ambassador Constantin Tudor at a reception with the diplomatic corps a few days ago. Cossiga told Tudor he was

Rome, Constantin Tudor, had been sharply and publicly rebuked last week by Italy's President over the repression, but yesterday he sided with the National Salvation Front.

Another Romanian diplomat in Italy, second secretary Aurel Suciu, told reporters: "I'm ashamed that it was possible to create this monster, Ceausescu, who has caused so much bloodshed in Romania."

In Poland, Romanian Ambassador Ion Tesu stood outside his Warsaw embassy, which had been splattered with ink by anti-Ceausescu protesters, to say he and the diplomats inside were "in solidarity with the heroic outburst of national bravery" under way in his homeland.

The Libyan news agency Jana said the Romanian embassy in Libya had "declined its total support" and "solidarity with the Romanian people in its massive popular revolution."

Joa Moncea, the Romanian Ambassador in Spain, told Spain's news agency EFE that the embassy in Madrid "totally backs" the provisional govern-

ment in Romania and "condemns" the Ceausescu regime.

About 50 Romanian refugees had demonstrated outside the Romanian embassy in Madrid to denounce the killings in their homeland.

Romania's Ambassador to Israel, Iulian Bituleanu, said his staff also supported the provisional government. Earlier yesterday, embassy workers tore the communist emblem off the embassy gate and put up a Romanian flag with the communist emblem ripped out.

Demonstrators had held a vigil in front of the Tel Aviv embassy since violence erupted in Romania.

"Now our country needs full support of all nations of the world in its efforts to undergo political transformation," Luchian Petrescu, the Charge d'Affaires at the Romanian embassy in Bangladesh, said.

Moncea told EFE he mourned his homeland's dead and wounded. "I am confident, however, about the future," he added, "and I feel optimistic about what is to come."

In East Germany, several political, church and citizens groups expressed solidarity with the Romanian people and called for aid to be sent to Romania.

Some set up special bank accounts to collect donations and one church group appealed to all East Germans with access to foreign currency to give one West German mark for victims in Romania.

In Warsaw, Solidarity chief Lech Walesa called for UN action on behalf of the uprising.

The British Red Cross launched a help Romania appeal and the relief organization immediately pledged \$160,000 for medical supplies.

Christian aid said it made a grant of \$32,000 through the World Council of Churches to churches in Romania and Hungary.

Ion Rafiu, president of the World Union of Free Romanians, said he hoped to return to Bucharest soon and start a mass circulation newspaper.

Regarded as a possible leader, Rafiu told the British news agency Press Association from his home in Switzerland, "if they give me leadership, I would be delighted to do it, but I don't want to impose myself on anyone."

"My heart is bleeding for the thousands and thousands of people who have been killed. It is a terribly high price to pay."

Scores of Romanians living in Jordan staged a sit-in outside their embassy today to show solidarity with Bucharest's new provisional government.

More than 100 Romanians, including the embassy staff, lit candles as they chanted slogans in favour of the new government while two dozen Romanian children carried banners which read: "Romania e libera," or "Romania is liberated."

Some Jordanians also took part in the half-hour sit-in.

The Japanese government applauded "the overthrow of tyranny" in Romania, but stopped short of recognising the new provisional government.

Chief government spokesman Mayumi Morioka said Japan has yet to consider the issue of recognising the new Romanian government in the wake of the overthrow of Ceausescu.

Iran, which last week gave a red carpet welcome to Ceausescu, expressed support for the popular uprising.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tehran welcomed "the Romanian people's efforts to reform the political system of their country," the national news agency Irna said.

Velayati, under fire over his handling of Ceausescu's visit, said Iran had no choice but to receive him.

## Sidelights



Jubilant demonstrators in Timisoara celebrate downfall of Ceausescu. (Reuter wirephoto)



A member of Romanian forces overlooks the situation on the streets in Timisoara. (Reuter wirephoto)

## No Arabs fighting

## PLO backs

KUWAIT, Dec 24, (Reuter)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said today it knew of no Arab involvement in fighting in Romania.

"Not only do I deny any (Arab) involvement but affirm our support for the struggle of the Romanian people for democracy and the forces for change," PLO official Yasser Abed-Rabbo told a press conference in Kuwait.

Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency said yesterday that Libyans and Syrians were fighting in Romania alongside forces loyal to deposed president Nicolae Ceausescu.

Libya and Syria denied the accusation, which was also made by Romania's exiled former king Michael. In Romania, an anti-Ceausescu army lieutenant-colonel said today that six soldiers whom he believed were Syrians had been killed in fighting still underway.

Abed-Rabbo said Israel, which had close ties with Ceausescu's government, might be involved in the fighting. He added that 4,000 Palestinians were studying in Romania.



Romanian soldiers in Timisoara conduct house-to-house search for snipers. (Reuter wirephoto)



A Romanian lies on the ground to protect himself from gunfire, while a soldier was killed in the middle of the street in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nastase urges to help troops: Former-Romanian tennis star Ilie Nastase has appealed to European countries to send ammunition to army troops fighting security police loyal to deposed president Nicolae Ceausescu.

In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, Nastase said he was in Bucharest visiting his mother on Thursday and his legs shook when he saw tanks firing in the streets.

Nastase, 43, former French Open champion and twice Wimbledon runner-up, left Romania on Friday. The Sunday Telegraph, early editions of which were available late on Saturday, did not say where he was interviewed. (Reuter)

UK plans evacuation: Britain made plans Sunday to evacuate all non-essential personnel from its embassy in Bucharest, as fighting intensified in the Romanian capital. A foreign office spokesman said the evacuation would begin at the earliest opportunity but that it was not yet safe for embassy staff to leave their building. Evacuation was not a simple matter, he said.

"The latest we have from them (the embassy) is that there is still sniper fire around the embassy," the spokesman said. Fighting intensified as night fell on the third day of street battles in Bucharest.

"It is not safe to move," he said. (UPI)

Pope says situation rare: Pope John Paul II, speaking for the first time in a television interview inside his Papal apartments, Sunday called the current situation in Romania "the only sad and painful exception" in an extraordinary year of political change in Eastern Europe.

The Polish-born Pope, sitting in front of his personal Christmas crèche depicting the nativity scene, was interviewed by Italian journalist Paolo Frasca of the state-run Rai Network. (UPI)

Ex-king appeals to help Romania: Ex-king Michael of Romania appealed to Britain, France and the Soviet Union on Saturday to help his country fight what he called "foreign aggression."

In a message to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French President Francois Mitterrand and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Michael said: "Foreign troops are fighting against the people of my country."

Michael, 68, said that Libyan and Syrian forces were backing troops loyal to ousted leader Nicolae Ceausescu, although both countries denied that their nationals were fighting there.

"I make a solemn appeal to the free nations and their leaders, particularly to Monsieur Francois Mitterrand, president of the French republic, and to Mrs Thatcher, prime minister of Great Britain, who have always been friends of Romania, to come to the help of my people. (Reuter)

Ceausescu created 'socialism in one family': Ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last Stalinist holdover in Eastern Europe, reportedly placed some 40 family members in top state and party jobs.

"He was worse than (former Soviet strongman Josef) Stalin who wished to institute socialism in one country. Ceausescu's slogan was socialism in just one family," said Romanian dissident Dan Petrescu, who lives in Iasi near the Soviet border.

Soon after he assumed power on March 22, 1965, Ceausescu did what other hard-line communist leaders did to establish and cement new authority: he brought his own followers into the top echelons of the party.

But his ambitions and his apparent lack of trust in his servants meant he needed more support, and he began placing family members in leading positions. (AP)

Romania plans elections: Here is the programme Romania's self-declared interim government, the National Salvation Front, has announced it will implement.

Free elections in April will select a pluralist, democratic government to replace the one-party communist regime headed by deposed President Nicolae Ceausescu.

A committee will draft a new constitution ending the cult of personality that marked Ceausescu's era, guaranteeing human rights and a free press, and ensuring full equality for minority groups.

Ceausescu's plan to demolish villages in favour of huge agro-industrial complexes will be scrapped.

Romania's economy will be restructured to promote free initiative. Education will become democratic and humanistic.

The country will continue to honour its commitments to the Warsaw Pact and will be called Romania rather than the Socialist Republic of Romania. (Reuter)

Four reporters injured: Four reporters were injured in Timisoara during the weekend while covering fighting between forces supporting deposed president Nicolae Ceausescu and his opponents.

Associated Press correspondent John Daniszewski was shot by a group of uniformed men who stopped his car and was in satisfactory condition in a Timisoara hospital Sunday, the Yugoslav consulate said.

New York Times correspondent John Tagliabue was shot in the stomach and also was in satisfactory condition in hospital after surgery to remove a bullet, said Serge Schmemmann, the New York Times correspondent in Bonn.

There were no further details on Tagliabue, who like Daniszewski is based in Warsaw.

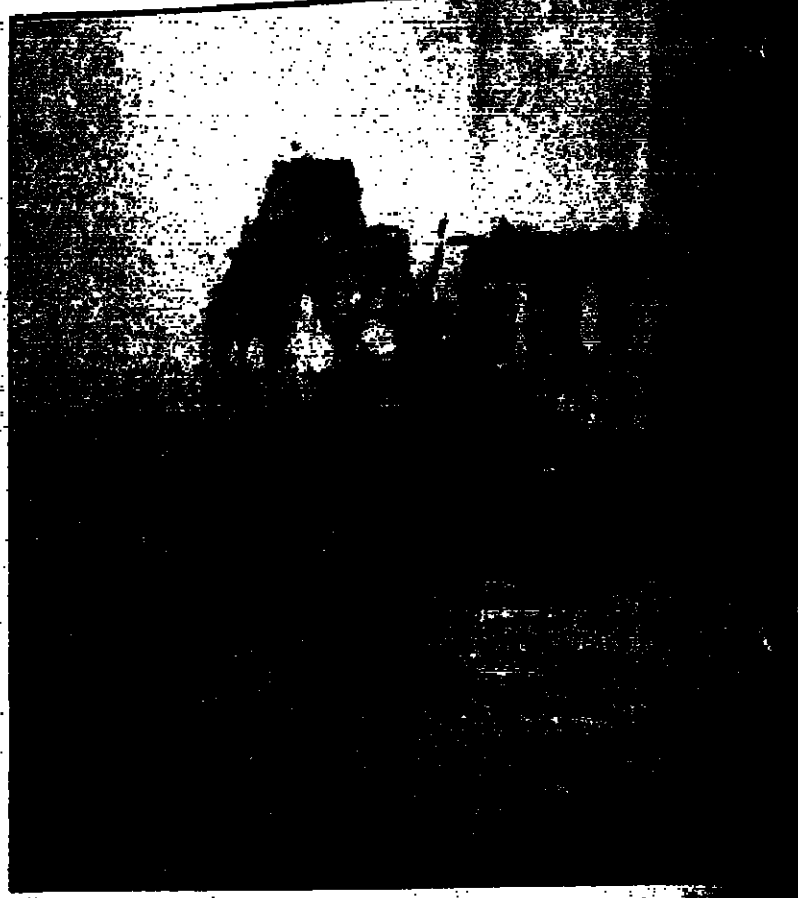
Yugoslav reporter Zeljko Sajin and Italian photographer Pasquale Modica also were injured, as was a Yugoslav consulate employee, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said. (AP)

Symbol and spearhead of aid: A small relief convoy threading over the Bulgarian border into Romania Sunday was the symbol and spearhead of a massive international aid effort being prepared to help the innocent victims of Romania's bloody revolution.

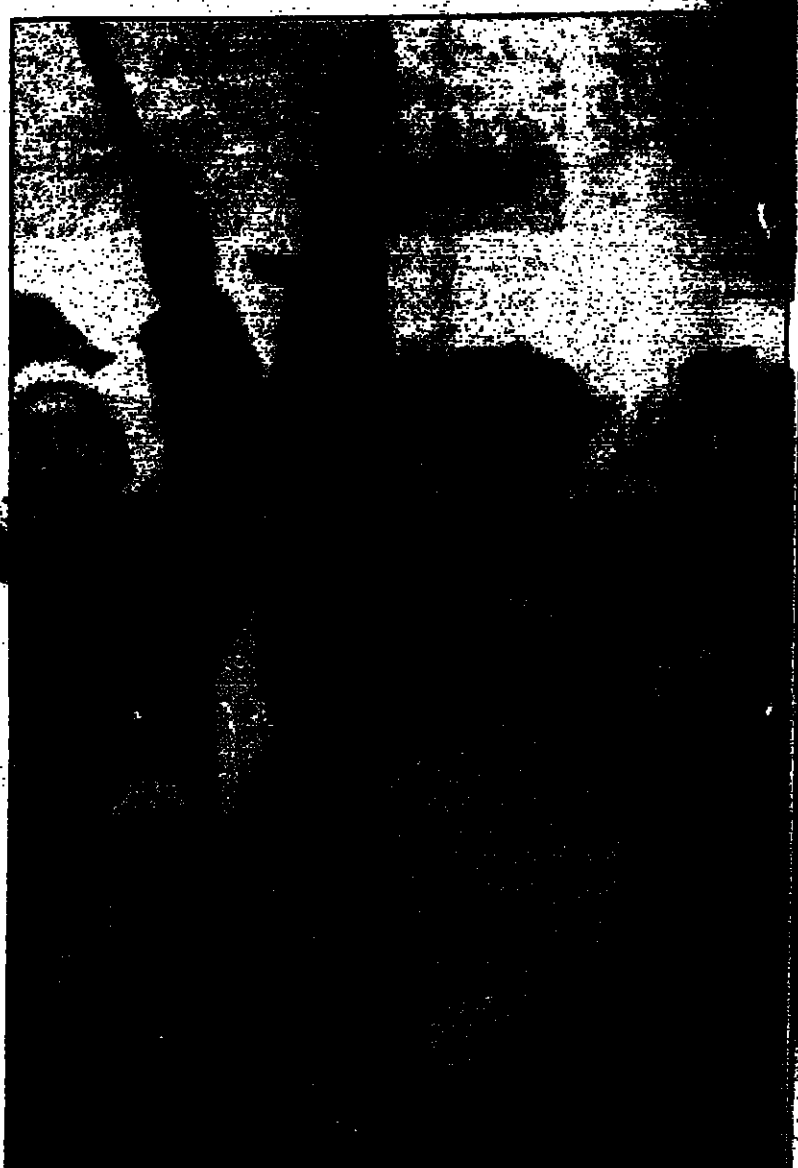
The convoy of 15 cars and vans, carrying medicines and food collected by students at Sofia University, crossed the border at first light and made for local hospitals.

A smaller group later pushed on to the capital Bucharest, handing over their cargo to a children's hospital.

Much more is on the way from a world shocked by the scale and brutality of the violence in Romania which has killed and wounded thousands. (Reuter)



A Romanian soldier warns people to cover themselves from the air in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)



Jubilant Romanians give victory signs in front of the captured Communist Party building in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)



Two pro-Ceausescu supporters handcuffed to each other are forced to lie down by soldiers at the captured Communist Party building in Bucharest.



# Romania

## Sniper fire continues

UK envoy's residence burns

### Troops uncover secret tunnels



The bodies of men, women and children removed from a mass grave in Timisoara after being slaughtered by Romanian forces. (Reuter wirephoto)



A civil fighter shoots out of the Communist Party building behind a Romanian flag with a hole. (Reuter wirephoto)



A Romanian soldier fires against pro-Ceausescu troops during street fights in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)

# In Agony

(Continued from Page 1)

agency ADN said the National Salvation Committee estimated more than 3,000 people were killed between Friday and last night.

"It is horrible murder," said Dr Stephan Miliescu, a plastic surgeon who volunteered to work at the emergency ward.

Ceausescu, who had ruled Romania for 24 years, was overthrown on Friday and was last seen when he and his wife Elena fled from the presidential palace by helicopter. His opponents announced yesterday that he and his wife were captured.

Romania was the lone East bloc country to resist a wave of democratic reforms sweeping its Warsaw Pact allies, several of which have discarded communist dominance for a multi-party system and free elections.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev earlier appeared to rule out Soviet military intervention in Romania, saying the leader of the pro-reform Romanian armed forces had announced there was no need for foreign help.

Dumas and French Prime Minister Michel Rocard contacted the Kremlin yesterday to express their support should the Soviet Union decide to intervene.

Dumas said: "Anything is possible. I could well understand those who, inspired by the movement in Romania, feel the need to go and fight ... France would help all those who choose that course of action."

He told the interviewer he had not ruled out the idea of setting up international brigades, but he added that this was a new idea western powers were not yet used to.

"The events taking place in Romania mean that this new idea should be included in our international legal vocabulary and that interventions by international organisations or states should be considered in certain situations," he said.

In Washington, Baker would not say whether the United States would take part in an international force to help restore order in Romania. He said this was a matter for the President to decide.

"We would be inclined probably to follow the example of France who today has said that if the Warsaw Pact felt it necessary to intervene on behalf of the opposition they would support that action," Baker said on US television.

The United States appeared to share the assessment that the outcome of the revolution in Romania was far from certain and that forces loyal to ousted leader Ceausescu were not yet defeated.

"It's still a very hairy situation, a great deal of violence and I think the outcome is probably still in doubt," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on television.

Baker said the United States had already been in contact with the reformist leaders in Romania and indicated strong support for them.

"We would support efforts to assist the Popular Front for National Salvation there in Romania. They are attempting to put off the yoke of a very, very oppressive and repressive dictatorship," he said.

The National Salvation Committee pledged in a communique today that the courts would mete out punishments of "the greatest severity" to "the dictator and his former lackeys."

In Timisoara, where the revolt against Ceausescu began on Dec 15, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported that pro-

Ceausescu security forces who parachuted into the city on Friday night were being captured by the army.

Pro-Ceausescu security forces had been barricaded near revolutionaries' headquarters at the Timisoara Opera House, but by early evening the army had arrested more than 40 fighters, including women, Tanjug said.

Tanjug had reported earlier today that fighting in Timisoara, Romania's fourth-largest city, had moved to the city outskirts as the army engaged fleeing Ceausescu loyalists.

The US embassy in Bucharest today was evacuating dependents and some staff members in a convoy to Sofia, Bulgaria, said spokesman Agi Kuperman.

The British ambassador's residence in Bucharest was set on fire last night and burned until this morning.

Four reporters also were shot in Timisoara over the weekend. John Daniszewski of the Associated Press, John Tagliabue of the New York Times, Yugoslav reporter Zeljko Sejic, and Italian photographer Pasquale Modica were all hospitalised.

Many civilian revolutionaries had joined in the fighting, but the National Salvation Committee urged them to surrender their arms by 5pm (1300 GMT) today. Ceausescu loyalists have begun to shed their uniforms, making it more difficult for the army to tell them apart from armed civilians aiding the army.

Stephen Andreescu, a spokesman for the National Salvation Committee, told the Associated Press that groups of teenagers armed with guns taken from the dead were "trying to carry out a vendetta" against Ceausescu's security forces.

"It will take days before it is all over," said Andreescu, who added that many Ceausescu loyalists were believed to be hiding in the subway and in secret underground passages and stretch for kilometres (miles) below the Communist Party headquarters, presidential palace and other locations.

Soldiers said today that they had uncovered a vast network of safe houses and secret tunnels which were stocked with arms, ammunition and electronic monitoring equipment.

The doctors at Bucharest emergency hospital said remnants of Ceausescu's guard and the hated Securitate also had holed up in secret apartments, firing at selected targets in the street. The army could not respond with heavy weapons without blasting neighbouring apartments.

A communique by the National Salvation Front read on Bucharest Radio said anyone violating the ceasefire it demanded would be dealt with mercilessly. "Not one more drop of blood should be shed," it said.

"New structures of democracy should urgently begin to rebuild the country ... they should subject themselves to the council of the National Salvation Front."

The communique added: "The first free New Year should bring order and calm to Romania, alongside the joy of liberation."

International concern is growing for the welfare of the Romanians, who have suffered shortages of food, medical and other supplies for years, and countries across Europe prepared relief supplies.

Trainloads of supplies were on their way from the Soviet Union and trucks with goods from other countries have been crossing from Yugoslavia and Hungary.

EAST BERLIN, Dec 24, (Reuter): Deposed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was apparently captured in a bunker linked to underground passages used by his agents to resist pro-democracy forces, East Germany's ADN news agency said today.

It said Ceausescu and his wife Elena were "supposed to have been arrested" in the bunker in Bucharest yesterday.

Bucharest Radio said Romanian troops today had uncovered the secret network of underground tunnels in the capital that have been used by pro-Ceausescu police lightning raids on the army and civilians.

The radio, quoted by Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency, said the tunnels were many kilometres (miles) long, and entrances to them had been found in the underground railway and in several houses including the new family residence of the deposed dictator.

It said the Securitate secret police had stores of weapons, ammunition and electronic equipment in the tunnels.

Pro-Ceausescu Securitate forces have used the underground passages and shelters to move swiftly around the city and emerge to fire on crowds and the army.

Mihnea berindei, vice-president of the Paris-based League for Human Rights Defence in Romania, told French Radio earlier that the Securitate could hold out for a long time in the underground network and sow a reign of terror.

Berindei said the National Salvation Front had appealed to the public to reveal anything they knew about the location of underground bases in the capital or elsewhere.

Romanian Television said yesterday that Ceausescu and his family were under arrest and being held by the army but did not say where they were apprehended or how.

Meanwhile, revolutionary forces in Romania said today they had arrested Zoia Ceausescu, daughter of Ceausescu, in their drive to round up elements of the clan which ruled the country for 24 years.

Bucharest Radio, in the hands of pro-democracy forces, gave no details of the circumstances of Zoia's arrest.

The Ceausescu's son, Nicu, known generally as 'the prince' and despised by the impoverished Romanian people because of his ostentatious and extravagant lifestyle, is also under arrest.

He was paraded, looking bruised and dazed, before television cameras broadcasting live to the nation on Friday and an announcer said he was caught while trying to take children hostage to secure his escape.

One of Ceausescu's well-placed brothers, Ilie, who was deputy defence minister, was also detained as well as what one Romanian newspaper described as other 'clan flunkies.'

Zoia, according to some reports, showed signs of rebellion against her father's repressive regime.

Nicolae Ceausescu was quoted in the memoirs of the former head of Foreign Intelligence Services Ion Mihai Pacepa, who defected in 1978, as saying Zoia was "a dumb little girl playing her stupid game of independence."

In 1986 she was reported to be the head of the mathematics department of a technical institute.



Civilians hide behind a wall during heavy fighting in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)



Dead people lie under a Romanian flag in an emergency hospital during fights in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)



Doctors and nurses surround a wounded soldier in an emergency hospital in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 'No funds in Iran' Accounts frozen

BERN, Switzerland, Dec 24, (AP): Swiss authorities have slapped a "precautionary" freeze on any assets held in Switzerland by ousted Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu and his family, the Justice Ministry announced today.

The announcement followed unconfirmed reports by Romanian exile groups that the ousted dictator had stashed \$400 million worth of gold bullion at banks in Zurich.

Foreign Minister Rene Felber said on Friday that authorities had no evidence of any Ceausescu-linked funds in Switzerland. But Moriz Leuenberger, a lawyer and Social Democratic Member of Parliament, said exile Romanians had told him that some gold transports on behalf of Ceausescu had arrived in Zurich only very recently.

Leuenberger, who said he acts on behalf of the unidentified emigres, said he had asked Swiss authorities to intervene as it was feared that the Ceausescu clan might try to get hold of the assets. He said some family members were believed to be in Vienna.

Iran today denied reports that deposed Romanian leader Ceausescu had stashed a fortune in gold in Tehran banks, and the Foreign Ministry responded to a wave of media criticism for arranging a state visit by Ceausescu last week.

The Secretary-General of Iran's Central Bank, Tahmasb Mazaheri, "categorically denied" that Ceausescu had deposited gold or any personal funds in Tehran, the Islamic republic news agency reported.



## PANAMA

# Noriega aide surrenders

## UN resolution deploring intervention vetoed

(Continued from Page 1)

States on drug trafficking charges. The wily general has not been found despite a \$1 million reward for his capture.

City streets remained strewn with rubbish after days of extensive looting. But more stores and gas stations reopened today in the first signs of people trying to put their lives together after the invasion. At a few stores open yesterday, long lines of shoppers were guarded by American troops.

Murguía said engagement by US troops in the city has declined.

A key military commander charged with drug smuggling along with Noriega has pledged loyalty to the new government and said he will submit himself to US military authorities.

Col. Luis Del Cid, commander of the 5th military zone, also has urged that his officers be considered during formation of a Panamanian military force to replace the routed defence forces of Noriega, who is still at large.

Del Cid made the comments in a news conference yesterday in the western provincial capital of David. Details did not reach the capital until today.

US troops had not reached David, 210 miles (337 kilometres) west of Panama City, by early today. The commander ordered David's airfield blown up on Wednesday to prevent the landing of US aircraft.

Noriega, along with Del Cid and 14 others were indicted on drug charges in US federal court in Miami in February 1988.

Del Cid, long one of Noriega's principal associates, also presided over the public surrender yesterday of arms by more than 100 members of Dignity Battalions.

He said concern for the security of his 10 children weighed heavily in his decision not to resist the US invasion and occupation force.

US military authorities were unavailable for comment early today as to whether Del Cid would be arrested and flown to Florida for trial.

At the UN, non-aligned countries, thwarted by a Security Council veto, are now looking to the UN General Assembly to criticise the US military intervention in Panama.

Nicaragua's Ambassador, Alejandro Serrano Caldera, told reporters today he had requested that the 159-nation General Assembly meet on Wednesday or Thursday to debate the US military action.

The United States, Britain and France yesterday vetoed a Security Council resolution deploring the intervention, but they do not have veto power in the assembly. So Cuba and several other nations are expected to back the Nicaraguan request.

US airplanes and helicopters flew observation patrols over the capital today. No airborne fire or bombing was heard, although gunfire, heavy at times, crackled in some streets in the working-class neighbourhood of San Miguelito.

The US-installed civilian government of President Guillermo Endara began forming a security force to quell looting and lawlessness in the streets.

Some 2,000 US troops reinforcements, including a helicopter company, were sent yesterday, the fourth day of the largest US combat operation since the Vietnam war, boosting the US troop strength in the country to 26,000.

Noriega's Dignity Battalions have surprised US forces with their strength and endurance. Joined by an unknown number of soldiers and officers from the 15,000-member defence forces, they turned to unpredictable guerrilla warfare.

The battalions are "increasing their activities of harassing attacks with small arms and mortar fire, threatening the civilian population and hostage-taking," Lt Col. Jerry Marguila, spokesman for the US southern command, said.

PANAMA CITY, Dec. 24, (Reuters): President George Bush may have proved his decisiveness by ordering US troops into Panama, but some Panamanians fear it could be not months but years before the soldiers can withdraw.

As more than 20,000 American soldiers pursue the dangerous task of rooting out Panamanian snipers from houses and offices in sprawling Panama City, US military officials acknowledge that the operation is far from over.

"To completely clean out the entire city is going to take months of work," a US commander told Pentagon reporters during a tour

### Sidelights



US Army soldiers interrogate and hold blindfolded and handcuffed prisoners of war at a camp at the Empire Range outside Panama City.



A wounded US soldier rests outside the Gorgeous Hospital in Panama City.

### Bid to remove weapons

## Cash for arms

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (AP): The US armed forces on Saturday offered rewards of \$25 to \$5,000 — in "cash, not cheques" — to Panamanians who turn in bullets, grenades, pistols and automatic weapons.

In a radio broadcast, the US military said the weapons had to be personally turned in. But they warned, "it is important the weapon be wrapped in a white sheet and be held high so we know you don't present a threat."

In addition to \$1 million being offered for information leading to the arrest of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the rewards listed were:

- \$25 for "sufficient" ammunition,
  - \$25 for hand grenades,
  - \$50 for rocket grenades,
  - \$100 for "pistols of any type,"
  - \$150 for automatic weapons,
  - \$5,000 for any weapons cache.
- "You will be paid in cash, not cheques or money orders," the broadcast said. "Let us eliminate arms from the streets so there can be peace and democracy in Panama."



Army soldiers operate on a man wounded when he tried to run a road block with his pickup truck in Old City of Panama.

**Neighbourhood no more:** Two weeks ago hundreds of people gathered at a large intersection in Panama City, to watch their biggest hero, hometown boxer Roberto Duran, fight Sugar Ray Leonard and make the kind of money they can't even dream of.

El Chorrillo, which had 28,000 mostly black and poor residents, is gone now. It was obliterated Wednesday when invading US forces bombed the adjacent headquarters of ousted Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. US cannon fire splintered the neighbourhood for hours as American troops try to capture the general.

The general escaped, but El Chorrillo did not. "Stonehands" Duran lost, but the people from the El Chorrillo neighbourhood, who watch the fighter grow up, were philosophical about it. Leonard might have dominated the fight, but their hero already had held several world championships. He'd had his day. (AP)

**"Stealth" has Panama role:** The US Air Force used a super-secret Stealth fighter plane for the first time in combat last week to disrupt defences just before US paratroopers landed in Panama, a published report said Sunday in Washington.

The F-117 eluded radar before dawn Wednesday, and bombed a field outside military barracks housing Panamanian troops, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told the Washington Post. Williams termed the mission "successful."

"We did not want to hit the barracks themselves" said Williams. He said the idea was to confuse, stun and disrupt the Panamanian infantry to thwart any attempt to organise a defence. (UPI)

**Panamanian police being assembled:** US military forces were at work on Saturday helping Panama's new government assemble a national police force, using recruits from General Manuel Antonio Noriega's Panama Defence Force (PDF).

At a heavily guarded site at Curundu, a housing area for US workers, hundreds of unemployed members of the PDF were being screened for the newly named Public Force (PF) as well as a separate traffic police force.

US military officials said that members of the new public force would be armed and out patrolling the streets of Panama city, in an effort to regain the streets from looters and other lawbreakers. (Reuters)

**Noriega loyalists surrender cheered:** A crowd of about 1,500 people on streets and rooftops cheered and whistled during a weekend surrender of defence forces once loyal to Gen. Manuel Noriega in La Chorrera. Alone or in small groups, the men materialised out of a crowd and laid down their weapons before US soldiers at a former Noriega compound here.

When the weapons were given up, a cheer rang out. (AP)

**US embassy surrounded:** Nicaraguan soldiers surrounded the US embassy again on Saturday in an effort to force US soldiers searching for Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega to end their blockade of Nicaragua's embassy in Panama.

President Daniel Ortega, who has repeatedly predicted a US invasion of Nicaragua, called for formation of "a single Latin American and Caribbean Army to defend the sovereignty that is being trampled in Panama."

"War must be declared on the interventionist policy of the United States," he said in a 30-minute speech in Chinandega, 80 miles (129 km) northwest of Managua. (AP)

**US invasion destroying Panama:** Panama's Roman Catholic Church on Saturday called on the United States to end its military action, saying the attack had "trampled" on Panama's sovereignty and caused death, destruction and hunger.

"Even though the action was aimed at bringing freedom to all Panamanians, we cannot help but lament the deep wound inflicted to our free and sovereign country and the enormous human and material damages it has caused," the nation's Roman Catholic bishop said in a communiqué.

The church asked that food and medicine be sent to the embattled nation following a four-day looting spree that created shortages after Wednesday's assault on Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's forces. (AP)

**Bush extends condolences:** President George Bush of the United States last night reached Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez over the phone to extend his and the US government's condolences on the killing of a Spanish journalist photographer Juan Antonio Rodriguez at the hands of American military in Panama last Thursday.

During the phone call Bush promised Gonzalez the American troops in Panama would do all they could to provide security for the Spanish military cargo plane that left to Costa Rica Friday on its way to Panama to repatriate Spanish citizens and send back the body of the killed photographer to Spain.



US troops patrol the market in downtown Panama City.



A group of Panamanian children ham it up for camera and give the victory sign during a celebration in David, Panama.



Marine scouts with the Delta Company from Camp Lajeune prepare to storm a Panamanian Defence Forces station in La Chorrera.

## Armed citizens taking control

# Justice swift in kangaroo court

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (AP): Justice was swift in a kangaroo court on the streets of Panama City on Saturday. Time elapsed from arrest to trial to release: 30 minutes.

The streets of the beleaguered capital had calmed somewhat by Saturday, four days after a US invasion that unleashed a frenzy of looting.

There was little left to take by the weekend, and the level of gunfire had dimmed to sporadic exchanges in most of the city.

The balance appeared to have tilted in many areas in favour of the armed citizen patrols barricading their neighbourhoods with everything from exercise bikes and toilet bowls to overturned trucks and concrete blocks.

"Where are the gringos? Where are the MPs (military police)? Where are the police?" demanded a man helping guard a supermarket, where steel bars staved off looters.

"We know this invasion was necessary," he said. "But Panama has been looted because they are not around. They have not made any effort to protect decent citizens."

He and his neighbours, armed with every-

thing from handguns to double-barrelled shotguns, had been guarding Punta Paitilla, a middle-class area, for days. Nerves were on edge.

They were letting shoppers enter the market in groups of five. Hundreds of people stood in the hot sun waiting their turn at the dwindling stock.

Suddenly, a group of vigilantes came down the street herding four prisoners — suspected looters stopped at a barricade nearby.

The men were put face down on the pavement and searched. Their hands were tied behind their backs with shoelaces and belted as a crowd gathered.

The mood ugly.

"Shut your mouth," a grey-haired man shouted as one of the prisoners tried to speak.

"Look at the fat one," another man cried.

"He's trembling."

One of the vigilantes began kicking the man in the head.

"Stop it," people shouted, rushing to pull the vigilante back. Another self-appointed cop fired his handgun into the air. Things calmed down.

"I know this man," one bystander said, coming forward. "He's no thief."

The captors moved their prisoners to a curb, sat them down and began to question them as others came forwards to vouch for the man or question the vigilantes about the "arrest."

A spontaneous "court" was in session. The man who had been kicked showed his identity cards.

He was Felix Suarez, a 52-year-old minibus operator with a contract to transport employees of Fort Clayton, one of the US bases near the city. He also held a permit for the .32-calibre pistol he had been packing.

"This is a mistake," Suarez said. "It's a bad mistake."

The vigilantes admitted the gun had triggered their suspicions. Suarez and his companions, all more poorly dressed than most in the crowd, had not been caught in the act of looting.

"We're going to let them go," someone declared, and people in the crowd nodded their approval. "There is no proof they did anything wrong."



A Panamanian family evacuates their home in Viajo section of Panama City after a sniper had been sighted by members of the 82nd airborne division during a sweep.



The body of Lt. John Connors is carried towards a hearse at Lyon airport in Boston. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Panama cleanout will take not months but years

## Bush may have taken on more than he anticipated: economic help needed

PANAMA CITY, Dec. 24, (Reuters): President George Bush may have proved his decisiveness by ordering US troops into Panama, but some Panamanians fear it could be not months but years before the soldiers can withdraw.

As more than 20,000 American soldiers pursue the dangerous task of rooting out Panamanian snipers from houses and offices in sprawling Panama City, US military officials acknowledge that the operation is far from over.

"To completely clean out the entire city is going to take months of work," a US commander told Pentagon reporters during a tour

of Panama City this week.

With much of the city's commercial area devastated by looting, pockets of Noriega supporters still fighting and many Panamanians horrified by the force of the US offensive, the country is in need of strong leadership.

But with the three leading figures of the new US-installed administration all lacking any experience in office, bringing real order to Panama could be a long job.

Bush may have saddled himself with a bigger problem than he had anticipated in bolstering a government that, on the face of it, looks ill-prepared to run a country in such chaos.

Analysts of Panama's internal politics believe the new president, Guillermo Endara, will need to call elections within a year to confirm his mandate.

Many Panamanians supported Endara in the May elections, which were annulled by strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, for lack of an alternative, but he is by no means certain to top a new poll.

Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, a former insurance salesman, is considered the most charismatic figure in the new administration and could well win new elections if the government coalition broke up.

Whatever the outcome, the United States

may have to spend a lot of money and political capital to bolster an administration struggling against major difficulties.

"The Americans didn't think about the social consequences. It's going to take three or four years to rebuild and much longer to heal our wounds," said one Panamanian.

The invasion could cost Bush dearly at home and abroad.

Choosing to launch his attempt to seize Noriega days before Christmas, Bush risked having US holiday celebrations blighted by military coffins arriving home.

And he has yet to achieve a prime objective of the biggest US military operation since the

Vietnam war — the capture of Noriega.

Although Bush has an almost 80 per cent domestic approval rating for the invasion, much of this support is contingent on US troops finding Noriega and many Americans are also likely to become more disenchanted with the operation as it stretches out and casualties rise.

Questions have also been raised over why the President sent in US troops rather than assisting those of the Panamanian defence forces who sought to overthrow Noriega in a coup attempt in October.

But most of the negative political fallout from the invasion is coming from abroad,

where countries as diverse as Sweden and Mexico have joined a chorus of disapproval.

The greatest damage has been in US relations with Latin America, which Bush had appeared especially keen to foster, visiting Costa Rica for a hemispheric summit less than two months ago and announcing that a new era of mutual understanding had begun.

"We really thought gunboat diplomacy was resigned to the past. This reminds me of Teddy Roosevelt," a senior Latin diplomat in Panama told Reuters.

Another possible casualty of the US invasion of Panama is Bush's attempt to organise a co-ordinated regional war against drug trafficking.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز الأمل"



# Green light to oust Aoun



Pope John Paul during a meeting in the Vatican with the three ministers of the tripartite high committee of the Arab League for Lebanon. (Left to right) Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Pope, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali, and Abdel Latif Filali of Morocco. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Shiite rivals ignore truce appeal

# Fighting rages on

SIDON, Dec 24, (AP): Rival Shiite Muslim factions ignored a ceasefire appeal from Iran today and fought fierce battles for a second day in hills above the main coastal highway linking Beirut with South Lebanon.

Police said 13 people were killed and 25 wounded in the battles between Hezbollah and Amal in Iqlim Al Tuffah. That brought the toll in two days to 30 killed and 70 wounded.

It also raised the overall figure to 601 killed and 1,649 wounded since May 1987, when the power struggle erupted between the two factions touching off intermittent confrontations in Lebanon.

In West Beirut, fighters of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and the pro-Syrian Amal clashed briefly overnight in the main commercial thoroughfare of Hamra.

Police said the clash erupted when Amal militiamen firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades tried to storm a Hezbollah religious center.

A dozen Hezbollah guards defending the center held off attackers for four hours before Syrian troops moved in and enforced a truce.

Several cars were wrecked during the attack and the steel shutters of several boutiques, supermarkets and groceries were blown off.

Police said there were no casualties in the clash, markedly less serious than the battles that have raged since dawn yesterday in Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple province.

Mohammad Ali Bisharati, Iran's deputy foreign minister, flew from Tehran to the Syrian capital, Damascus, yesterday and declared a ceasefire at midnight (2000 GMT) after meetings with Amal leader, Nabih Berni, who is minister of hydraulic and water resources, and Sheikh Sabhi Tofaili, one of Hezbollah's leading clerics.

But the fighting raged on. Amal rushed reinforcements from Beirut to the south today. An estimated 2,500 fighters

backed by tanks, counterattacked Hezbollah under a barrage of heavy artillery and recaptured two villages, Mjaidel and Kfar Hattat, which had fallen yesterday, police said.

The fighting later centered around two other villages seized by Hezbollah — Kfar Milki and Kfar Kila, about five miles (eight kilometers) northeast of Sidon.

Reporters who toured Kfar Hattat said shell pocks and bullet scars marked almost every house in the village of 2,000 inhabitants. Broken power cables dangled on smoldering cars.

Amal's military commander in Kfar Hattat, Mashour Ghossein, told reporters "we will stop fighting only when we regain every inch of territory seized by Hezbollah yesterday (Saturday)."

The four embattled villages sit atop a chain of strategic hills that control the main supply routes to Hezbollah's strongholds further south in the townships of Jbaa, Ein Bouswar and Jarjou.

DUBAI, Dec 24, (Agencies): The Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon has informed the Lebanese legitimate government of the necessity to set up a comprehensive plan to face ex-army commander Gen. Michel Aoun.

Press reports said today that the tripartite committee has informed the Lebanese Finance Minister Dr. Ali Khaleel, in Muscat, during the GCC summit, to draw a plan to confront Aoun if the organized elections in East Beirut, because such a step would lead to partition of Lebanon threatening the Arab region.

Dubai's Al Bayan daily, in an uncorroborated report from Beirut, said that Arab countries gave the green light for the Lebanese legitimate government to deal with Aoun by all means including military force if peace efforts failed, and vowed to support that step.

Despite reassurances made yesterday by Samir Geagea, commander of the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia, ruling out inter-Christian fighting, the escalating war of words between Geagea and Aoun is heightening fears of a military confrontation between the two sides as part of the power struggle within the Christian community.

Fears of new fighting between Aoun's Christian troops and Geagea's LF militia rose after Geagea had insisted on holding what was described as a show-of-force rally in East Beirut and Aoun was reported to have objected to it at this time when Aoun is fighting a fierce battle against the supporters of the Taif agreement.

Geagea has set Dec 26 as a date for the rally known as "resistance day". Informed political sources in East Beirut told Al Seyeessah that Aoun will seek to reply to Arab and international governments which supported the Taif agreement and the legitimacy of President Elias Hrawi and his national unity government headed by Selim Al Hoss by cracking down on the "Lebanese Forces" militia to show the world that he is the only force to be reckoned with in the Christian enclave.

The army-LF tension coincided with preparations by Aoun to hold parliamentary elections in Christian areas under his control on Jan 7.

Informed sources told Al Seyeessah that Aoun wanted the elections in East Beirut to set the stage for his election as president of the area under his control. The sources said that Aoun would later ask deputy Abdel Majid Al Raifei, a Muslim Sunni, to form a new government to rival the Hoss government.

Al Raifei is deputy for the northern city of Tripoli and is the secretary-general of the pro-Iraq Baath Party in Lebanon. He has been living abroad since Syrian forces entered north Lebanon in 1976.

Meanwhile, Geagea, who has accepted the authority of Syrian-backed President Hrawi and recognized the legitimacy of his election, had implicitly supported the Taif agreement. But informed sources in East Beirut confirmed that Geagea is expected to publicly announce the "Lebanese Forces" support for the Taif accord at the rally on Dec 26.

## UAE gets 13 French Mirages

ABU DHABI, Dec 24, (Reuters): France delivered 13 Mirage 2000 jet fighters to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month as the first part of a \$2.3 billion deal for 36 of the planes, western diplomats said today.

The UAE said earlier it had received part of the long-delayed order during a visit this month by French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, but did not say how many.

The diplomats said the UAE would be receiving another plane almost every month until the full order was complete by the end of 1991.

The deal was signed in 1986 but held up after the UAE asked for the planes to be fitted with US sidewinder missiles. The diplomats said France agreed to make technical modifications to fit the missiles.

# No names now: PLO

## Arafat in talks with Mubarak

AMMAN, Dec 24, (UPI): The Palestine Liberation Organisation refuses to deliver to Egypt a list of names of a Palestinian delegation to take part in a proposed dialogue with Israel, a senior PLO official said in published remarks yesterday.

PLO Executive Council member Abdullah Hourani told the English-language newspaper, the Jordan Times, the PLO was asked to convey the names of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo, which would have conveyed them to Washington.

"But the PLO will not deliver a list of names to Egypt or to any third party," said Hourani, who visited Amman with PLO leader Yasser.

"If there will be a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the PLO will name the delegation publicly."

Under a plan proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker, the foreign ministers from the United States, Israel, Egypt, which would represent the Palestinians, should meet in January to organize subsequent Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo.

But US officials have become increasingly pessimistic about the Washington conference taking place because of the continuing dispute over the issue of Palestinian representation.

Israel, while accepting the idea of a US-sponsored conference in

Washington in January to discuss the Palestinian issue, has added a number of conditions, one of which was that the PLO could not participate.

PLO sources, meanwhile, told the Jordan Times that Washington does not expect the PLO to play a direct role in the process, and that the PLO's part would be confined to confidentially advising Egypt on the names.

Hourani said the PLO would accept the Baker plan provided the organization retains a central and direct role in the process, and he outlined conditions in the PLO's seven-point reply conveyed by Egypt to the United States this month.

"It is unfortunate that the (US) response ignores, right from the very beginning, the role of the PLO in forming the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue," according to the published PLO reply.

"It even completely denies the existence of the PLO by referring to major and influential Palestinian forces which would name the delegation. Where are these forces? On what bases has the American administration been holding a dialogue with the PLO?"

Arab League representative Clovis Maksoud says any Middle East peace talks that exclude the PLO would be pointless.



Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, (centre) walks in the annual Christmas eve procession from Jerusalem to the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Tight security for Xmas

## Israeli troops patrol Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank, Dec 24, (Agencies): Israeli soldiers kept watch today from the roof of the Church of Nativity where Jesus was born, but few tourists gathered for Christmas eve celebrations.

Stores were closed because of a protest strike called by the pro-PLO underground unified national leadership of the uprising (UNLU), which directs the two-year-old revolt against Israeli rule.

UNLU slogans spray-painted in red and black on city walls called for residents to boycott Christmas eve celebrations and make it a "mourning day" for Palestinians killed in the uprising.

Latin Patriarch Monseigneur Michel Sabbah led the traditional procession into the Church of Nativity which begins the Christmas eve ceremonies. He was accompanied by the door by Arab dignitaries and the Israeli military governor of the city who was dressed in an olive drab uniform.

The main streets of Bethlehem were empty except for soldiers and small groups of tourists. Cars were barred from entering the town centre and visitors to Manger Square had to pass through a metal detector and were subject to searches.

Soldiers and police in groups of two and three binoculars and automatic rifles took up positions of the roofs of most buildings, including the Church of Nativity, where celebrations culminate with a midnight mass in the Roman Catholic chapel.

The only sign of celebration was a 30-member Israeli police band in blue uniforms which played Christmas carols for the 100 to 150 visitors in the square at midnight.

"I didn't expect so many police," said Anne Svoboda, a housewife from Ogallala, Nebraska, as she surveyed the tight security in Manger Square near the church that marks the manger site where the Bible says Jesus was born.

Elias Freij, Christian mayor of the predominantly Muslim town of 35,000 eight kilometres (five miles) south of Jerusalem, appealed for "peace with dignity" for Palestinians, who have suffered 639 killed since Dec 8, 1987. Forty-three Israelis have also died.

Despite all the sufferings that we have been subjected to, we have no hatred in our hearts," he said.

Freij, a moderate, said he hoped that next year in Bethlehem he would see Israeli civilians instead of "hundreds of soldiers with their guns trying to intimidate and humiliate our people on his holy day."

Freij denounced as a "criminal act" the actions of Israeli soldiers who reportedly confiscated and destroyed identity cards of Palestinians.

In an apparent effort to prevent Islamic fundamentalists from disrupting Christian services, soldiers also turned away Muslims who tried to enter the square where the Church of Nativity and a mosque are located.

Tensions heightened after the death Friday of 12-year-old Mohammed Jamil Kamel, a Muslim boy shot in the neck Dec 7, reportedly by a Jewish settler. On Saturday, Muslim fundamentalists burned tires and hurled stones in Bethlehem, prompting border police to close shops and clear the streets of everyone except tourists.

Elsewhere in the occupied land, 14 Palestinians were found in clashes with Israeli soldiers. Six were hurt in three separate clashes in the Gaza Strip and eight others were wounded in the Nablus area of the West Bank.

# 'No hope for peace without Palestine'

BETHLEHEM, Dec 24, (AP): Palestinians boycotted Christmas eve celebrations in the town of Jesus' birth today and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu warned there was "no hope for peace in the holy land without a Palestinian state."

Some 1,000 Palestinians attended Tutu's sermon at the nearby shepherds' field, where the first word of Jesus' birth was received by shepherds watching over their flocks at night (Luke 2:8).

Before Tutu's arrival, a group of school girls chanted "P.O. Israel no," and sang the Palestinian national anthem "Biladi, Biladi," or "my country, my country."

"We pray that Arabs and Jews will know that they are brother and sister, that they belong in one family, that they belong in God's family, that they belong in the human family. We support the struggle of the Palestinian people for nationhood," Tutu said in his sermon, interrupted by applause.

"But we say also, dear brothers and sisters, the Jews have a right to their independent state as well. And we say, peace is going to come in this land because it is God's will and nobody will stop it," he said.

Hanna Atrash, the Palestinian Mayor of nearby Beit Sahour, told Tutu: "We hope next time you are invited back to an independent state ... we would like to live in peace in our state, alongside Israel."

The worshippers were also addressed by two Israelis, who said they supported the Palestinian cause.

"I do wish this should be the last Christmas you celebrate under occupation," said Veronica Cohen of Jerusalem.

The sermon ended with the group singing "Joy to the world."

Shortly before the sermon, Tutu told the Associated Press in an interview: "We are praying so desperately that the Jews and Arabs may find each other, that Arabs can understand the Jews' anxiety about their continued existence and that the Jews can hear the cry of the Palestinians for an independent sovereign state."

The 1984 Nobel peace prize winner said he believed "until their aspirations for complete autonomous nationhood and statehood ... are fulfilled, there is no hope for peace."

Iran hangs 17 for drug smuggling: Seventeen convicted drug smugglers were hanged in Tehran and two other Iranian cities on Sunday, the official Iran news agency said.

It said the smugglers, one of them a woman, were part of an international ring and were also found guilty of armed robbery, arms smuggling and creating a "state of terror". Police seized guns and ammunition from the group, said Iran. Some were hanged in Tehran and others in Kerman and Mashad. (Reuters)

Four killed in Turkish train crash: Four Turkish railwaymen were killed on Sunday when a passenger train rammed into a freight train which had stalled on a single track with engine failure, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

Three people were injured and six carriages were smashed in the accident near Peranti in southern Adana province, 360 km (225 miles) southeast of Ankara. (Reuters)

Rebels control town: Ethiopian rebels, in a steady push southwards, claimed Sunday they controlled a garrison town they captured last week in central Ethiopia. The Tigre Peoples' Liberation Front said in a clandestine broadcast Mehal Medan fell on Friday after "fierce fighting."

It was impossible to independently verify the rebel claim. Mehal Medan is located 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Addis Ababa and 76 kilometres (47 miles) west of one of the two highways that connect the capital with the Red Sea port of Assab. Assab is one of Ethiopia's two ports and is home to the country's sole oil refinery. (AP)

Meeting on human rights: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet in Tehran on Tuesday to discuss human rights. Wam news agency said on Sunday.

The 44-nation group will meet for three days to debate an Islamic human rights document, the official agency of the United Arab Emirates said. Earlier this year, Iran attacked the OIC for not supporting the religious decree ordering the death of British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy in the Satanic Verses. (Reuters)

Death sentence: A military court on Sunday sentenced a man convicted of trying to smuggle large amounts of foreign currency to death by hanging and handed his accomplice a 10-year prison term.

Khartoum's special military tribunal one sentenced Girma Butrus, an assistant pilot with Sudan Airways, to death by hanging after convicting him on Saturday of attempting to smuggle more than \$100,000 worth of foreign currency out of Sudan.

The court said he was guilty of "subversion" of the Sudanese economy, a crime punishable by death under martial laws in effect since a military coup overthrew the civilian government June 30.

The tribunal sentenced Mohamed Al Rashid, a driver at Khartoum airport, to 10 years at jail for helping Butrus. (AP)



Arafat in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (left) greets PLO chairman Yasser Arafat upon his arrival at the presidential palace in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Destroy N arsenal: Iraq has asked the international community to keep pressuring Israel to destroy its nuclear arsenal.

In a statement issued by Foreign Ministry on the 20th anniversary of signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, Iraq affirmed that the most effective guarantee against using nuclear weapons is nuclear disarmament and rebuilding a new peaceful world void of such destructive weapons.

The statement, carried by the Iraqi news agency, expressed Baghdad's condemnation of the nuclear co-operation between Tel Aviv and Pretoria. (Kuna)

Soviet message: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has received a message from his Soviet opposite number Eduard Shevardnadze.

Radio Tehran reported that the message was conveyed by Soviet Ambassador in Tehran to Iranian first foreign undersecretary Ali Mohammed Besharati who later left for Damascus.

It did not disclose content of the message. (Kuna)

Prince Hassan in Baghdad: Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan arrived on Sunday for talks with Iraqi leaders on Arab and international issues, state-run Baghdad Radio reported.

It quoted Hassan as saying he will also discuss preparations for the 4th summit conference of the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council which will be held in Amman in February.

The economic alliance, launched last February, groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen.

In Amman, a Jordanian official said Hassan will deliver a letter to President Saddam Hussein from King Hussein of Jordan.

"The letter deals with Middle East developments, primarily issues related to the Palestinian cause," the official said, refusing to be named. (AP)

## Relief reaches S. Sudan

KHARTOUM, Dec 24, (AP): For the first time since February, a large convoy carrying consumer goods has reached the southern town of Malakal whose inhabitants are facing acute shortages of food, the Sudan News Agency reported today.

The convoy's military escort repelled an attack by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army on the barges but there were no casualties reported on either side, Sana added. The agency said jubilant

inhabitants of Malakal welcomed the barge, which carried 45,000 tonnes of sorghum, sugar, cooking oil and laundry soap.

Malakal was one of the cities whose inhabitants were receiving relief food. But the United Nations' co-ordinated relief operation has had to stop after the government suspended all relief flights to the south because of renewed fighting with the southern rebels.

## Iran moves to curb baby boom, that threatens economic future, despite radical opposition

NICOSIA, Dec 24, (AP): Alarmed at Iran's burgeoning population and the strains it imposes on the battered economy, the government is intensifying a birth control programme despite opposition from radicals.

"If the Islamic republic's government does not implement proper and swift plans for controlling population growth in Iran, future generations will definitely face severe social and economic problems," Tehran's Kayhan International newspaper warned recently.

"Can we be proud of a nation of hungry Muslims who have to beg the infidels

of the world for charity?" asked Mohammed Yazdi, a member of the 12-member council of guardians, a legislative watchdog body. "What is there to boast about?"

Iran already has to import \$2 billion worth of food each year. Ten years ago, when one-third of the population was engaged in agriculture, the nation could feed itself. Today, that figure is down to one-fifth.

Iran has one of the highest birth rates in the world, between 3.5 and 4 percent a year. Even in the Middle East, where soaring populations are the norm, Iran's

baby boom is fast outstripping development.

Before the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran's population was about 35 million. Last month, the government's chief statistician, Majid Shamsi, announced the population had reached 55 million — an increase of 17 million in a decade.

Experts estimate that by the year 2010, Iran will have 140 million people, more than double the present total. They warn that unless something is done soon to curb the birth rate and rapidly expand the economy, the country faces a major social explosion.

While Iran struggles to cope with its baby boom, rival Iraq is striving to expand its population to keep up with the Iranians in case the Gulf war, halted by a ceasefire last year, flares up again.

Iraq has a population of around 16 million, one quarter of Iran's.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has called increasing the birth rate a "strategic duty" and offers hefty financial incentives, including cash grants and interest-free home loans in his demographic drive.

Iraq launched a half-hearted birth control campaign last year, with some

religious leaders encouraging Iran's predominantly Muslim population to have fewer children.

Now Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has declared that birth control is not un-Islamic, although abortion is illegal.

The Health Ministry has announced it has set up centres in major cities to provide free contraceptives. But these are reported to be in short supply.

Some newspapers have warned that unless more is done to get the message across the government programme will have little impact on Iranians.



## EVENTS



## KCC holds exhibition

An art exhibition and a violin recital were held by the Kuwait Cultural Centre last week. A wide variety of paintings on different subjects were displayed as parts of efforts to encourage the young artists at the Centre. Children learning to play the violin through the Japanese Suzuki method displayed their talents at the well-attended concert. Pictures show (above): Salome Al Sabah of the KCC with some of the children who took part in the annual activity; (below) Salome talking to art teacher Al Naqeb.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMME

## KTV 1

## MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Kher: news and variety  
9.50 Cartoon serial  
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.20 Watadour Al Dawar: Arabic serial (part 8)  
11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety  
11.35 Variety Programme  
12.20 Sabah Al Kher news  
12.30 News summary  
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

## EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Bertin: Cartoon serial  
5.15 Mama Anisa and the Children: Local children programme  
6.00 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.15 Al Bahr La Yabale Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 8)  
7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim  
8.00 Onsiyat Al Ethneen: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes  
8.30 Good Evening and local news  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 13)  
10.35 Masra Al Mutanabi: Historical serial (part 14), starring Abdullah Ghaith, Sameeha

Ayoub, Amina Rezz and Abdul Rahman

- 11.45 News summary  
11.50 The World Today via Satellite  
12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

## KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
6.10 The Little Rascals: A cartoon series for children  
6.30 Mac and Mutley: Mutley skates on ice with the programme's host... An aristocratic family is interested in breeding dogs.  
7.00 Roving Report: A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.  
7.30 Charles in Charge: Charles suggests that the family has to spend the Christmas holiday in a forest. They are blockaded by snow.  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 The Scientific Progress: A weekly local programme on various topics and scientific and achievements.  
9.00 Miami Vice: "Miami Squeeze". A gang boss exploits a son of a Congresswoman in smuggling drugs while his mother is launching a campaign against drugs trafficking and smuggling.  
10.00 Bustin Loose  
10.30 The Dark Angel Eps. 2: "Maud" has to call her Aunt Monica, when she realises that a plot on her life is being planned by Uncle Sila.  
11.30 News in Brief  
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite.



## Sunshine School Concert

Last week, the Sunshine School held their annual concert. Students of junior classes one to four participated in either West Side Story, Captain Cook or as members of the choir. Pictures show scenes from the performances.

## CINEMA

- Al Andulus  
Licence to Kill  
Salmiyah  
Hall Booked  
Al Hamra

- Arabic film  
Drive-in  
Arabic film  
Al Firdous  
Main Azaad Hoon

- Fahsheel  
Good Morning Vietnam  
Al Jabra  
Blast Fighter  
Granada  
Caddy Shack II

- Sulabikhat  
Booby Trap  
Jleeb  
Sarparani  
Ahmadi Drive-in  
Iron Angles

## PRAYERS

Fajr	5.15 am
Zohr	11.48
Asr	2.38 pm
Maghreb	4.56
Isha	6.19

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

## Lecture

PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art." The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6.00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum lecture theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

## Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

## Tribal Rugs &amp; Oriental Prints

The Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition start-

ing Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

## SOCIAL

## Musical Variety

PAKISTAN Arts Circle will hold a musical variety programme on the eve of the "New Year" on Sunday, the 31st Dec, 1989 at Sr. Vice-President's residence. Zahid Saeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan will preside. The programme, includes competition of singers, presentation of a leading poet of Kuwait, bingo and "Bait-Baazi" of ladies, as well as many other attractive features. Families interested are welcome but they should collect the invitation cards. Honorary member families are requested to kindly collect

their invitation cards from the Secretary, Public Relations, Hamid Mahmoud: 4716258 as soon as possible.

## II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Fumatees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

## Victory Day function

THE Shatadal Cultural Group will observe the Victory Day of Bangladesh with a cultural function on Dec 26 at Messila Beach Hotel. A brief discussion on Bangladesh and the War of Liberation will be followed by a musical sketch titled "Amar sonar Bangla, ami tomay bhalo basi."

## "Nirjhar"

A CULTURAL function under the auspices of "Nirjhar Sangskritik Goshthi" will be held at Bangladesh embassy premises on 29th December, (Friday).

Mohsin Ali Khan, the political Advisor and Charge d'Affaires of Bangladesh embassy will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis have been requested to kindly procure the invitation card in order to attend the function. For details please contact the Tele. Nos. Mahe Alam - 4315962; Mannan - 4317223; Salam - 4330416.

## Kuwait Cultural Centre

NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

## Saz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bise Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Fumatees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

## Kalkpak's drama competition

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalkpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait), best direction, Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

## Goodbye 1989

SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghaza-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara" from Tridev by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 28 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's International Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Khalid Fawzi on 4879455. Tenakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

## Kuwait Welsh Society

A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

## Philippine embassy

THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait will remain closed for three (3) consecutive days, from Saturday, 30 December 1989 until Monday, 01 January 1990, on account of Philippine holidays.

## Pongal celebrations

BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

## Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Fumatees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

## People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

## Annual Day celebration

MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait is celebrating its first annual day on 29th Dec 89 Friday, with variety entertainment programme from 1000 to 1500 hrs at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Members and guests are requested to contact Tel. Nos. 5725176 or 2424242 or 3921372 for entry passes.

## IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Fumatees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

## Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumatees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all

from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

## SPORTS

## At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-ton Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coach-

ing available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

## IAC table tennis

THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

## Boys Own Club tie-breaker tournament

BOYS Own Club are happy to announce that entries are open for the tie-breaker football festival to be held on 29/12/89, at Al Sour Ground. Teams wishing to enter this football festival can contact Joe D'Souza on 4813622/25 ext. 147.



## In the Spirit of the Season

In the spirit of the season, Kuwait International Hotel organised a cooking demonstration for the International Women's Association and the German Club. Pastry Chefs Brandl and Bruggeman revealed their closely guarded secrets in the baking and decoration of season's cookies, Christmas logs, gingerbread house and certainly the traditional fruit bread.



## Shatadal Cultural Group forms new committee

A general meeting of Shatadal Cultural Group was held on 8th December '89. Khondkar A. Hannan, president of Shatadal, was in chair. The meeting has approved by-laws and formed a new committee for the session of 1990-91. Members of the executive committee are: President - Khondkar Abdul Hannan; Vice Presidents - Md Nurul Haque, Md. Nurul Anwar, General Secretary - M. Jamal Haider.

هك / مونت الاصل



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bush ready to lift ban on loans to Baghdad

## US keen to expand trade with Iraq

WASHINGTON, Dec 24, (AP): President George Bush is preparing to lift a ban on federal government loans to Iraq, a move expected to rile US lawmakers concerned about the Baghdad government's heavy indebtedness and the nation's ballistic missile programmes.

Bush is expected to invoke a legal provision which allows him to lift the ban on grounds of national US interests, according to the officials who spoke on condition they were not identified.

The United States, which reestablished diplomatic ties with Iraq in 1984, has been seeking to increase its

influence over the government of Saddam Hussein.

The administration is especially eager to expand trade with Saddam Hussein, who commands a powerful military force and the world's second-largest proven oil reserves. But many lawmakers are wary of Iraq's opposition to Israel, and have expressed concern over Iraq's use last year of nerve and mustard gas against Kurdish rebels.

US oil companies have sharply increased imports from Iraq the past two years, jumping from a daily average of 83,000 barrels in 1987 to 345,000 barrels a day in 1988, according to US Energy Department figures.

The year-end figures for 1989 are expected to show about a 40-per cent increase over 1988.

Deputy Energy Secretary Henson Moore, in particular, has been eager to improve opportunities in Iraq for US oil and petroleum product companies.

But other American businesses, eager to profit from an anticipated boom following the end of the eight-year Gulf war last summer, had their plans thwarted by a total lack of financing.

Iraq, emerging from the destructive war with neighbouring Iran, has

accumulated an estimated \$30 billion in debt to governments and banks around the world.

Because of its oil reserves, Iraq is considered a good credit risk in the long-term — once it repairs the oil terminals damaged in the war and implements plans for increasing its daily output from 2.5 million barrels to a projected 4 million.

In the short-term, however, Iraq has faced problems with lenders because it won't divulge figures on its debt, citing national security, said Withhold Sulimski, chairman of a New York-based merchant bank called Interacap Investments Inc.

The Iraqi government is eager to draw US business so it can profit from advances in American technology and build up its export-oriented industries. However, the ban adopted by the US Congress several months ago suspended \$200 million in annual short-term credits to Iraq by the Export-Import Bank, a US government institution which promotes the export of American goods.

To head off a presidential veto and respond to concerted pressure from US businesses, Congress agreed to incorporate the executive branch's right to cancel the ban, "but there were many

up here who didn't like it and wanted a flat out prohibition on Iraq," said a congressional source who spoke on condition he not be named.

"We couldn't do that. Iraq is a major untapped market for the US in the Middle East," said one official. "We get lots of calls every day from people wanting to go in there and do business," he said, speaking on condition he not be identified.

The businesses vary from salvage companies to grain exporters, he said. "Unfortunately, we have to tell them they have to find the financing or lose the sale," he said.

Gold trinket imports to hit record

## Japan agrees to give \$244m credit to Turkey

TOKYO, Dec 24, (UPI): Japan has agreed to extend a \$2.2 billion yen (\$244 million) low-interest credit to Turkey to finance the modernization of the country's agriculture, government officials said.

The officials said the credit will be offered in co-operation with the World Bank.

The fund will be used by the Agricultural Bank of Turkey to help farmers purchase agricultural equipment, the officials said.

The loan is repayable over a 25-year period, including a grace period of seven years, at an annual interest rate of 2.9 per cent, they said.

Japan will also extend a grant of up to 649 million yen (\$4.5 million) to Micronesia to finance the country's project to improve the infrastructure for fishery development, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The ministry said the fund will be used to improve fishery port and distribution facilities and promote distribution and export of marine products.

The government-financed Export and Import Bank said it has agreed to 51 cases of export and import financing worth \$64.1 billion yen (\$3.92 billion) in November.

The bank said 12 cases of export funding included digital electronic telephone switchboards for Chile while five cases of imports included the purchase of a supercomputer from the United States.

The bank said the deals also included 11 cases of united loans

Kobe Steel to strengthen operations

KOBE, Japan, Dec 24, (UPI): Major Japanese steelmaker Kobe Steel Ltd. says it will upgrade its office in Singapore and Melbourne into wholly owned subsidiaries in January to strengthen its presence in the two countries.

The Kobe-based company said its Singapore office will be incorporated into Kobe Steel Asia Pte. Ltd., capitalised at 1.5 million Singapore dollars (\$694,000).

The new firm will start with a staff of eight and the number of employees will be increased in line with the expansion of its business activities, the company said.

The company said its Melbourne office will be replaced with Kobe Steel Australia Pte. Ltd. and start with five employees. The new firm, capitalised at 1 million Australian dollars (\$694,000), will be located in Sydney.

Kobe has 10 production and marketing subsidiaries and associated companies in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand and three subsidiaries and associate companies in Australia.

The reorganisation is in line with the company's medium- and long-term management plan to promote globalisation of its operations, Kobe said.

totaling 444.4 billion yen (\$3.1 billion), including a loan to Mexico in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund.

The bank lent 119 billion yen (\$826 million) in the month and collected 51.6 billion yen (\$358 million) in debts.

Its outstanding balance of loans totalled 5.354 trillion yen (\$37.2 billion) at the end of November, the bank said.

Meanwhile Japan's imports of gold accessories and ornaments in 1989 are estimated at a record 17 tons, surpassing 13.6 tons last year, the Japan-Far East office of the World Gold Council reported yesterday.

The council noted that Japanese imports in the first eight months of this year totalled 12.1 tons, up 40 per cent over the like period of last year.

Italy was the top supplier with

six tons, followed by Hong Kong with 2.4 tons, the council said.

The council attributed the high growth to introduction of the uniform 3.0 per cent sales tax in April, replacing a higher commodity tax.

A government advisory panel forecast that Japan's food self-sufficiency rate will stand at 50 per cent in the year 2000, almost unchanged from 49 per cent in 1987.

The Agricultural Administration Council said its forecast was based on the assumption that Japan's population will increase 7.0 per cent over 1987 to 130 million in 2000.

Demand for rice, Japan's staple food, is expected to decrease at an annual rate of 60,000 to 100,000 tons to reach 9.5-10.1 million tons in 2000, compared with 10.65 million tons in 1987,

the council said.

Demand for rice for processing, however, was anticipated to rise.

The council predicted the rice acreage will decrease to 1.87-1.98 million hectares (4.7-4.95 acres) from 2.12 million hectares (5.3 acres) in 1987.

Meanwhile, Sumitomo Marine and Fire Insurance Co. has announced it has acquired a 10 per cent equity in Malaysian Nonlife Insurance Company Hong Leong to strengthen its service to Japanese firms operating in Malaysia.

Sumitomo, a major casualty insurance company, said the acquisition is its second business expansion in Southeast Asia, following the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary in Singapore.

Japan's household spending in October rose a seasonally adjusted 0.8 per cent over a year ago to an average 292,671 yen (about \$2,032), a recent government report said.

The management and co-ordination agency said monthly spending by salaried families increased a modest 0.2 per cent to 306,770 yen (\$2,130) while that of nonsalaried families, such as self-employed and farmers, grew 1.7 per cent to 266,108 yen (\$1,848).

The agency said spending on furniture, household goods and automobiles increased substantially but that on food leveled off.

Two Japanese telecommunications firms extended their telephone services to Taiwan Wednesday, the companies said.

## Baghdad ratifies budget

BAGHDAD, Dec 24, (Reuters): Iraq's national assembly has ratified the country's 1990 budget, local newspapers said today in reports giving some details of proposed expenditure.

Saadoun Hammadi, deputy prime minister in charge of the economy, told the assembly the budget had five main aims — fighting inflation, reducing foreign debts, accelerating development, producing consumer goods and maintaining the combat potential of the armed forces.

The published figures included the proposed salary bill for the estimated 800,000 government workers. This was put at just over four billion dinars (\$12.8 billion), up 1.5 billion dinars (\$4.8 billion) on 1989.

The reports said salaries accounted for 36 per cent of the budget, suggesting that the rest of the budget totalled roughly 11.1 billion dinars (\$35.5 billion).

Iraq had not previously issued details about its budget since the Gulf war with Iran broke out in 1980. Fighting ended under UN-brokered ceasefire in August last year.

The budget was passed to the assembly for final approval after a joint meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Council, the Baath Party leadership and the council of ministers two days ago, newspapers reported.

Total proposed expenditure on Iraq's investment programme was not published, but it included 5.6 billion dinars (\$17.9 billion) on the industrial and agricultural sectors and 632 million dinars (\$2.02 billion) on transport and communications.

Economy set to cool down

MADRID, Dec 24, (Reuters): Spain's economy will remain one of the fastest growing in Western Europe next year but overheating is expected to slow down as domestic demand is curbed, the OECD said.

The 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development made the prediction in the Spanish section of its half-year report released.

It said gross domestic product (GDP) would grow 4.1 per cent on average in 1990-91, allowing further cuts in unemployment.

Spain's unemployment rate fell by more than 2.5 percentage points to 17.3 per cent in 1989 and is expected to fall to 16.1 per cent in 1990.

The Paris-based organisation said fixed investment, bolstered by foreign capital, remained the most expansionary force in Spain this year.

It said GDP, boosted by domestic demand, grew by 4.9 per cent in 1989, slowing down in the second half of the year after the government adopted tightening measures.

The government raised the Bank of Spain's intervention rate, banks' reserve requirements and withholding taxes on personal incomes, while credit ceilings were raised.

This squeeze pushed up interest rates, with the real rate reaching almost nine per cent in November for short-term credit.

## Bank of America sells stake Egyptian joint venture

CAIRO, Dec 24, (Reuters): Bank of America has sold its stake in its Egyptian joint venture Misr America International Bank (Maib). Bank of America manager Omar Sakr said today.

He said it would keep its own branch in Egypt and continue to co-operate closely with Maib. "We are committed to staying in the country," Sakr told Reuters.

Bank of America sold its 40 per cent stake in Maib to Red Sea Enterprises, which already owned shares in Maib. Set up in 1977, Maib has a capital of 45 million Egyptian pounds (\$17.4 million). The other shareholders are Misr Insurance, Banque du Caire and the Development Industrial Bank.

Sakr said Bank of America would retain a window in Maib — a practice used by foreign banks to carry out banking operations in Egypt from which they are excluded.

Earlier this month, Lloyds Bank announced it was closing its Cairo branch. It said the decision was part of overall company policy and not connected to conditions in the country.

Meanwhile talks between Soviet Union and Egypt on the volume of commercial exchange between them will start in Moscow on January 2.

The volume of the commercial exchange is expected to reach £700 million. The sterling is the approved currency of exchange between the two capitals.

An economic official has said here yesterday that talks will also deal with a long-term trade exchange agreement scheduled to start in 1991 for five years and will total £1 billion.

The source added that the current volume of commercial exchange reached £630 million.

## More defence spending proposed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 24, (Reuters): Finance Minister Shimon Peres asked Israel's cabinet today to approve a \$27.2-billion state budget for 1990 that would put more money into battling the Palestinian uprising.

The cabinet met for seven hours and will discuss the draft budget again tomorrow before voting on the proposal and sending it to parliament.

The Finance Ministry proposed defence spending of \$5.3 billion, an increase of \$75 million over the current budget and nearly 20 per cent of all expenditure for the fiscal year starting on April 1, 1990.

The army had sought an extra \$200 million, saying this was needed to meet the costs of fighting the two-year-old revolt against Israeli rule of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's Central Bank chief Michael Bruno, citing evidence that Syria and Jordan had reduced military expenditure, sparked a controversy earlier this month by calling for cuts in defence spending.

The proposed budget also included a \$250-million provision for settling 40,000 Jews expected to arrive in Israel next year, mostly from the Soviet Union.

Value-added tax will be raised to 16 per cent from 15 per cent to finance the new expenditure, the Finance Ministry said.

## Real estate jitters send stocks down

Corporate earnings drop

NEW YORK, Dec 24, (UPI): In a week that saw the Federal Reserve finally begin to loosen its grip on interest rates, the stock market posted a loss, rocked by fears of a slump in the real estate market.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 20.26 Friday to close at 2711.39 for a loss of 28.16 points on the week, or about 1 per cent.

Among the broader market averages, the New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.67 points to close the week at 191.95. Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 2.64 to 347.42.

Declines led advances 1,134-746 among the 2,134 issues traded this week. Big Board volume totalled 843,562,790 shares, compared with 927,760,970 a week earlier and 722,205,400 a year ago.

Nervousness about real estate loans started Friday, when the Bank of New England announced it would boost its reserves for bad loans in that sector by about \$700 million. The bank's disclosure sent shock waves through the financial sector, sparking fears that problems with such loans may be widespread and that their effects may be felt throughout the economy.

When the market reopened Monday, investors battered financial issues of every variety — banks, insurance companies, and savings and loans — on fears of a serious slump in the real estate market.

Investors also were afraid the slump might push the economy into a recession and that the Fed, which has taken a cautious stance on interest rate cuts, would not act quickly enough to ward off a serious economic slowdown.

The Dow plunged 42.02 Monday, its second-biggest loss since the 190-point plunge Oct 13.

The Fed did come to the rescue later in the week,

however, signalling on Wednesday that it was amenable to a quarter-point drop in the key federal funds rate, which banks charge each other for overnight loans.

The market had a subdued response to the apparent loosening of the reins on credit, however, the blue chips dipping slightly Wednesday and managing just a small gain Thursday. Analysts blamed the lack of excitement on the market's misreading of a similar signal from the Fed last month, when the rate dipped briefly but then rose again. They also said the market's attention was turned away from interest rates by the US military action in Panama, calling Friday's rise a delayed reaction.

"The Fed was basically admitting some concerns about the economy and saying that they did have to ease (interest rates) to stimulate the economy to some extent," said Jeff Kaminsky, head of institutional sales trading at Mabon, Nugent and Col.

"It's clear that corporate earnings have suffered, as well as retail sales, auto sales and housing starts," he said.

Now, said Kaminsky, the market will either decide that the Fed moved in time (to avert a serious slump in the economy) or that there may be three to six months of tough times ahead.

"Now it's wait-and-see," he said. "Will the softening of rates rekindle the economy? If normally takes one or two quarters of results (of a rate cut). I think we may be likely to see some rough road for the first two quarters of next year. AT and T was the most active NYSE issue, down 15/8 to 443/4 amid disappointment that it did not raise its dividend at a board meeting this week.

On the trading floor this week, AT and T was the most active NYSE issue, down 15/8 to 443/4 amid disappointment that it did not raise its dividend at a board meeting this week.

## Hunt bankruptcy comes to an end

DALLAS, Dec 24, (AP): Ex-billionaire William Herbert Hunt has relinquished his estate, bringing to a conclusion one of the biggest personal bankruptcies in history.

Herbert and his brother, Nelson Bunker Hunt, were once two of the richest men of the world, with a net worth of more than \$3 billion. On Thursday, a week after the bankruptcy case ended, Herbert relinquished his estate to a liquidating trustee.

Hunt's financial problems began in 1980 when he and his brother lost \$1.5 billion speculating in the silver futures markets. The silver losses were compounded by falling real estate prices and the collapse of the oil market.

On June 14, US bankruptcy judge Harold Abramson granted the brothers' request that 601 silver claims be dismissed from the bankruptcy proceedings.

However, the decision left intact almost 600 claims amounting to about \$360 million stemming from the brothers' silver speculation.

On Thursday US bankruptcy judge Harold Abramson signed the order that will transfer the fallen oilman's estate to a liquidating trust within 10 days.

## Aircraft demand boosts US durable goods orders

WASHINGTON, Dec 24, (Reuters): A surge in demand for aircraft and parts boosted orders for durable goods by a surprisingly strong 5.1 per cent in November after a 0.7 per cent decline in October, the US Commerce Department said yesterday.

Aircraft orders accounted for about 40 per cent of the increase but there were also smaller increases across several other categories of goods. The durables report is considered volatile and subject to significant revision.

The October order rate was revised from a previously reported decline of 1.3 per cent.

Economists said the durable goods report, showing gains not only in orders but also in shipments and backlogs, might ease some concern about a weakening manufacturing sector that was seen in many recent reports.

Even excluding defence orders, durable goods orders were up 4.2 per cent after a 0.1 per cent increase in October.

"This confirms our belief that the fourth-quarter weakness should be temporary," said David Wyss, chief economist with DRI/McGraw Hill Inc in Lexington, Massachusetts. "It should be bouncing back up in the first half."

Built to last three years or more, durable goods are a key part of the US manufacturing sector, and orders for the high-price items are closely watched as an indicator of the economy's health.

The overall 5.1 per cent durables orders rise was the largest monthly increase since a 7.4 per cent gain in December 1988, department officials said.

Analysts had forecast durables orders would be unchanged from October levels. Credit market interest rates climbed on the durable goods report, which was viewed by traders as reducing the chance that the Federal Reserve, or US Central Bank, will ease credit.

Despite the reports' suggestion of continuing firm interest rates, stocks were up and the dollar softened.

The US Chamber of Commerce, representing many major manufacturing companies, said the orders rise was a delayed reaction to falling interest rates since June.

The rise left durable goods orders at \$130.68 billion, compared with 124.35 billion in October.

Shipments of durable goods rose by 1.5 per cent following October's two per cent fall. Unfilled orders, a gauge of future activity, rose by 1.5 per cent after a 0.5 per cent October rise.

## Arab funds to continue support to Third World

ABU DHABI, Dec 24, (Opecna): A co-ordination group representing Arab funds, the Opec Fund for International Development and the Islamic Development Bank, ended a meeting here yesterday with a pledge to continue support for developing countries.

They also agreed to organise a workshop in order to assess Mauritania's economic performance.

The meeting expressed support for the Makassid Islamic Hospital project in occupied Jerusalem and approved measures to co-ordinate with the African Development Bank in financing economic projects in Africa.

The participants stressed the need for continuing co-operation among their institutions, which have extended about \$28 billion in credits to 2,000 projects in 100 developing countries.

The agencies also met a delegation from Mali yesterday to discuss the financing of some projects in the country.

The 10 institutions forming the co-ordination group include four multilateral development funds.

The first category is formed by the Opec Fund, the Arab Funds for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Islamic Development Bank.

The second consists of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Iraqi Fund for External Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Qatar Development Account, the Libyan Arab Company for Foreign Investment and the Saudi Fund for Development.

Said Aissi, assistant director general for operation management, represented the Opec Fund at the meeting.

## Saudi emphasis on investment in productive industries

RIYADH, Dec 24, (Opecna): The Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu will continue to emphasise the development of the existing infrastructure and encouragement of investment in productive secondary, support and light industries, according to an official publication.

A booklet issued by the commission provides a historical background of the Jubail and Yanbu industrial cities, highlighting their main features and the investment opportunities available there.

The Royal Commission, the publication recalls, has been responsible for the preparation of 20 project sites at Jubail for primary industries affiliated to Petrochem and the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic). Today 11 primary industries and more than 60 support and light manufacturing industries are in operation in Jubail, in addition to 19 more owned by the private sector, it adds.

"The continued development of oil and gas refining and processing facilities will depend on parallel pipelines carrying crude oil and natural gas liquids from the oilfields of the eastern province to Yanbu, thus creating a regionally diversified industrial activity," notes the publication.

Industrial development has been encouraged through tax holidays and financial incentives. Jubail and Yanbu, the booklet points out, offer fully-serviced industrial sites, with a complete range of industrial infrastructure, long-term land leases at economic rates, and access to domestic and world markets by air, sea and land.

Consistent with the kingdom's emphasis on maximizing investment opportunities for the private sector, the two cities, says the commission, offer "particularly significant advantages for investors in commercial and residential developments."

The commission highlights the fact that a physical infrastructure capable of meeting the future community needs of Jubail and Yanbu and their industrial complexes has been provided, complete with power and water utilities, telecommunications, irrigation systems and waste treatment facilities.

Meanwhile a Saudi company is to fabricate 14 extra-large offshore modules for Qatar's mammoth North Gas field.

## Contract signed

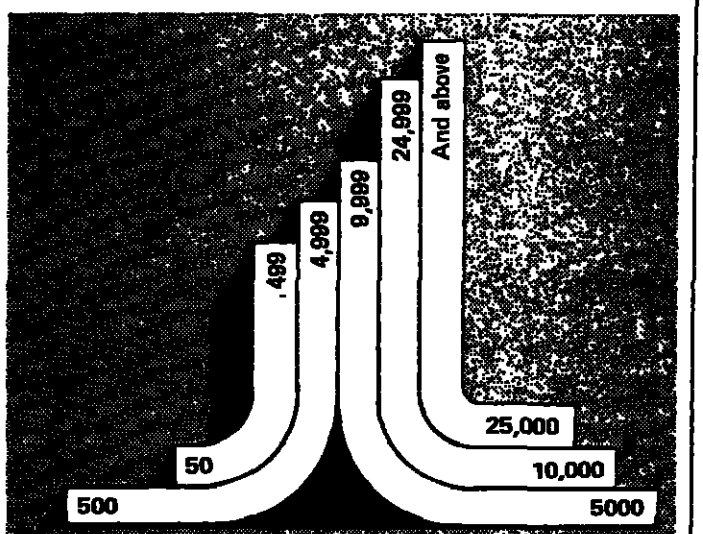
LLOYD Triestino, the main Italian shipping company, has ordered to the HFE Gorgias \$500 tons. The Italian company which is part of Fimare/In Group will deploy above containers on the various services they are running towards all the continents.

This new order is in addition to the 10,000 tons ordered at the beginning of the year. In fact the first lot is at the moment under delivery.

Lloyd Triestino and HFE have already signed the contract for an estimated value of \$20 million. Ricci, chief executive of the Italian Shipping Line said the signature of this contract is representing a further positive contribution of Lloyd Triestino to the development of the shipping industry in Italy.

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## BUSINESS

## Poland and IMF sign letter of intent

WARSAW, Poland, Dec 24, (AP): Poland and the International Monetary Fund have signed a letter pledging far-reaching economic reform in return for \$700 million in credit and the promise of more aid, official media said today.

Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz and the chairman of the National Bank of Poland, Wladyslaw Baka, initiated the letter of intent, which then received approval from IMF managing director Michel Camdessus and the fund's board of executive directors in Washington, D.C., the news agency PAP said.

The first credit installment of \$215 million could be received as early as next week, PAP reported, but other officials have said completion of the complex funding arrangement might take until January.

Acceptance of the letter also launches a \$1-billion fund being prepared by Western countries to back the Polish currency, PAP said.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and his council of ministers met through the night Friday, reviewing the stringent plan under which Poland vows to choke off 900 per cent inflation, cut budget deficits and weather unemployment and poverty.

The plan, negotiated since Mazowiecki formed the East bloc's first non-communist-led government in September, is tied to the most extensive economic reform legislation ever attempted in the region.

The IMF agreement will certify to Western leaders that Poland is making serious efforts to put its economy in order, and is expected to unleash further loans from the World Bank and other sources. It is also critical to arranging the rescheduling of payments on Poland's 40-billion debt to the West.

"It was important to sign it as soon as possible because the money could come pretty soon," said Tomasz Drzewoski, director of the government press office.

## Indonesia to get World Bank loan

JAKARTA, Dec 24, (Opecna): Indonesia will receive a World Bank loan of \$467.5 million for construction of highways and development of human resources.

The agreement was signed in Washington this week by the Indonesian envoy to the United States, Abdul Rachman Ramli. Of the total loan amount, \$350 million will be spent on the highways, while the balance will help with the development of human resources.

The 20-year loan will include a grace period of five years. While the rate of interest will be determined later, the commitment fee until June 30, 1990 has been fixed at 0.24 per cent, 0.75 per cent thereafter, depending on the balance of the undrawn component of the credit.

The highway construction project will need a budget of more than \$2.4 billion and the balance is expected to be met from the national budget and loans, from the Asian Development Bank and the Exim Bank of Japan.

The human development scheme will consist of increasing the planning and management abilities of the national development planning board and training facilities for the personnel of various ministries, state-owned companies and non-governmental organisations. It will also help in the development of scientific and technological research at government ministries and development institutions.

## Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/16	8-3/8
1 year	8-1/16	8-3/8

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.450
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.830
Bangladesh taka	9.010
US dollar	29.340
Pound sterling	47750
UAE dirham	07985
Deutsche mark	17210
Japanese yen	002070

## Plans to boost spending on social security programmes

## Japanese govt approves '90 draft budget

TOKYO, Dec 24, (AP): For the first time in 15 years, the Japanese government today approved a draft budget that does not rely on deficit-financing bonds.

The Finance Ministry's 66.273-trillion-yen (\$466.7-billion) spending plan for fiscal 1990, which begins next March, was accepted by the cabinet in a special meeting.

The budget represents a 9.7 per cent rise over current fiscal year spending and calls for a 5.5 per cent increase in defence outlay and 5.9 per cent rise in official development assistance.

Because of economic expansion, the defence budget will dip below 1 per cent of Japan's gross national product for the first time in four years, standing at 0.991 per cent of the GNP.

In the mid-1970s Japan adopted a policy of keeping defence spending to within 1 per cent of the GNP, but since 1986 it has hovered just above that figure. Defence spending in the coming

fiscal year will be 4.135 trillion yen (\$29.1 billion).

Further negotiations will fine-tune specific allocations for the final version of the budget, approval of which is expected next Friday, a senior Finance Ministry official said.

The cabinet also approved a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, at 5.897 trillion yen (\$41.5 billion) the largest stop-gap budget ever.

"The greatest thrust of this year's budget is the desire of the government to end its dependence on deficit-financing bonds," the ministry official, who would not be quoted by name, told reporters. "Since they were first introduced in 1975, we have made great efforts to end this dependency. We were finally able to rid ourselves of this unhealthy system."

The government issued 1.33 trillion yen (\$9.3 billion) worth of deficit-financing bonds last year to cover the budget's red ink. That amount will be made

up in part by an infusion in fiscal 1990 of 1.3 trillion yen (\$9.15 billion) from government sales last year of its shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., as well as increased tax revenues, the official said.

Non-deficit-financing government bonds to be issued next year total 5.63 trillion yen (\$39.6 billion), itself a drop of 20.8 per cent from fiscal 1989, according to the draft budget.

Official development assistance to developing countries will rise 5.9 per cent to about 800 billion yen (\$5.6 billion). Japan has pledged to provide more than \$50 billion in Oda over a five-year period beginning in 1988.

The government will also boost spending on social security programmes 6.2 per cent over the current fiscal year to 11.73 trillion yen (\$81.5 billion), a third of all general expenditures in the fiscal 1990 budget.

"It remains imperative that fiscal consolidation be forcefully promoted

and fiscal flexibility restored as soon as possible if fiscal policy is to be able to respond flexibly to the rapid ageing of the population, Japan's greater responsibilities in the international community, and other social and economic changes," the Finance Ministry said in a statement today.

Spending on public works will rise 0.3 per cent to 6.215 trillion yen (\$43.8 billion) next fiscal year. Although the United States government has urged Japan to increase such publicly funded projects to help ease Tokyo's trade surplus with Washington, the marginal increase "is sufficient," the Finance Ministry official said.

"It is not our understanding that the US position is that something need be done in a single year's budget," the official said. "Even without the US urging we are fully aware of the need, which is reflected in the allocations for next year."

The budgetary increases reflect growing tax revenues flowing from the country's booming economy that has just entered into its fourth year of continuous expansion.

The draft budget was compiled on the basis of government estimates that the economy will grow an inflation-adjusted 4.6 per cent next year, a brisk pace despite a slowdown from the estimated 4.6 per cent growth in fiscal 1989. At the outset of the current fiscal year, the government projected growth of 4 per cent, but revised the estimate upward in light of the unexpected strength of domestic demand.

An unusual addition to the fiscal 1990 budget was 5.6 billion yen (\$39 million) for the formal enthronement ceremonies of Emperor Akihito, and 136 million yen (\$958,000) for the wedding of Akihito's second son, Prince Aya.

The government will introduce the final budget to parliament early next

year, where it generally passes before a new fiscal year sets in. Passage of the fiscal 1989 budget was delayed, however, by deliberations over a 2 per cent sales tax that was eventually rejected through parliament by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Finance Ministry officials could not say how much revenue the controversial sales tax, introduced in April, will bring in this fiscal year, but noted that tax revenues account for 87.5 per cent of all revenue anticipated in the proposed budget, compared with 85.7 per cent in fiscal 1979.

Non-tax revenues will also register a sharp gain of 34.9 per cent. The budget will not receive a fresh infusion of funds from the government's sale of shares of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, as there was no offering this year, but gains from previous sales of NTT shares will help cover next year's spending.

## India's growth rate seen falling to 4pc

Foreign debt to rise even higher

NEW DELHI, Dec 24, (Reuters): India's economic growth, straped by trade and fiscal deficits and ballooning foreign debts, will slow to 4pc this year, a government white paper on the economy said.

A newly-established council of economic advisers called for crucial modifications in the economic policy of the past five years, saying it was fuelling inflation and pressuring India's balance of payments.

The new National Front government of V.P. Singh has already pledged to devote half of all government resources to the agricultural sector and to write off loans of \$500 of less to poor farmers and rural workers.

The government should "concentrate on a broad-based growth pattern with emphasis on

removing disparities between sections of the population and regions rather than aim at a higher rate of growth in aggregate output," the economic advisers said.

India's gross domestic product growth will likely be four per cent at the end of the fiscal year in March against a robust nine per cent the previous year, said the paper released at the weekend.

It said India's foreign debt as a March 1989 was \$51.2 billion and will rise even higher at the end of this financial year.

The World Bank, in its recently-released world debt tables, adds in India's short-term loans and puts the debt figure at \$57 billion, the fourth highest in the developing world after Argentina's.

The paper said the debt was not a serious concern.

"The real problem is that the burden of debt service reduces greatly the room for manoeuvre on the development front as well as in the choice of development strategies."

Recurring deficits and escalating debt repayments were severely straining the country's balance of payments. The paper recommended controlling government subsidies and slashing defence spending.

"The reduction in tensions in the world as a whole and improved relations with our neighbours can provide the basis for containing defence expenditure," the advisers said.

New Delhi's defence budget doubled in real terms during the

1980s. Since 1986 it has ranked as the world's largest arms importer, buying \$5.2 billion worth in 1987 alone, foreign defence analysts said.

The fiscal deficit, estimated at \$4.5 billion in this year's budget, will likely turn out much higher, the paper said.

India has been running annual trade deficits of more than \$5 billion over the past three years, according to official figures.

Large capital-intensive projects using a lot of imported machinery should be scrapped or delayed, the paper said.

The emphasis should be on diversified agricultural growth and rural employment to stimulate demand for cheaper, simpler, domestic manufactured goods which would save foreign exchange.

## Bonn gives go ahead for rail link

BONN, Dec 24, (Reuters): West Germany gave the green light on Thursday for a 2.2 billion mark (\$1.3 billion) scheme to link Dusseldorf and Cologne airports with the futuristic transrapid magnetic rail system.

Technology Minister Heinz Riesenhuber said Bonn would share the cost of the 35-km (22-mile) link, the first commercial use of a revolutionary levitation system developed by West Germany's Thyssen AG, with the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia and the companies owning the airports.

The link will eventually be extended at each end to connect Essen in the north with Bonn in the south, he told reporters.

A Thyssen statement said the complete Essen-Bonn link would cost about four billion marks (\$2.3 billion).

The transrapid uses the principle of opposing magnetic poles to "float" just above the rails. It recently set a world speed record for its class of 435 kph (272 mph) on a test track, and goes into production at the end of 1990.

## Gulf Bank weekly market review

**Kuwaiti dinar**  
Based on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate continued to trade firm against the US dollar ending the week at 291.97 fils, compared with its week before last closing of 296.56 fils. The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 472.26 fils compared with its week before last closing of 464.73 fils. The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 169.80 fils compared with its week before last closing of 165.63 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 188.99 fils compared with its week before last closing of 186.11 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market report.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 423.31 fils compared with its week before last closing of 423.93 fils. The KD continued to trade higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded relatively lower within a narrow range over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week at 8.43 per cent - 8.56 per cent compared with 8.50 per cent - 8.56 per cent the week before last. Three-month interbank rates also traded at 8.43 per cent - 8.56 per cent compared with 8.50 per cent - 8.56 per cent the week before last. Rates for longer periods traded also lower, ending at 8.37 per cent - 8.50 per cent rates for both 6 and 12 months.

**World stock markets**  
Wall Street stock prices moved lower over the week on concerns about the US economy and on worries about the effects of a real estate slump on the banking and related industries. Also concern over the US military action in Panama weighed on the market. However, prices moved higher later in the week as a late burst of blue chip buying lifted stocks higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2,698 and closed higher at 2,711, but recorded a loss of 29 points over the previous week's closing at 2,740.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange moved higher over last week, underpinned by news UK M4 November bank and building society lending rose a smaller than anticipated \$4.9 billion after a \$5.2 billion rise in October and the week's UK GDP rose 0.5 per cent against a forecast gain of 0.7 per cent. Prices ended the week firm ahead of the Christmas holiday and on the last day of the trading account with book squaring responsible for much of the activity. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 231 and closed higher at 2362, recording a gain of 22 points over the previous week's closing at 2340.

**US dollar**  
The US dollar traded lower over the week, the lack of fresh incentives and general bearishness the dollar's losses in a thin trading market as trading session was shortened due to Christmas holiday. On the other hand, last week US intervention in Panama, as well as the unrest in Romania has had very little impact in supporting the dollar.

US consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent in November after a 0.5 per cent October gain, with higher food and housing costs accounting for much of last month's advance. Up to end of Nov 89 consumer prices have risen at a 4.6 per cent annual rate.

In comparison, consumer price index for 1988 advanced 4.4 per cent. After subtracting food and energy prices, which vary widely from month to month, the so-called core rate of inflation was up 0.4 per cent in November. The November climb in consumer prices left the overall index for all urban consumers at 125.9 over its 1982-84 base. That means a consumer who paid an average of \$81.00 for a basket of goods between 1982 and 1984 now must pay \$125.90 for the same items.

The rise in November CPI is very much unlikely to set off warning signals at the Federal Reserve that inflation is about to accelerate. Fighting inflation is a priority for the Central Bank, which has been cautious in gradually lowering interest rates since June. The Fed's policy-making committee met on Monday and Tuesday to set monetary policy for the next few weeks. The panel's decisions will not be revealed for about six weeks.

**Pound sterling**  
The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6050/60 and closed higher at \$1.6240/50 compared to its week before last closing at 1.6035/45.

Sterling moved higher over the week, underpinned by a lower than expected \$5.9 billion November rise in UK bank and building society lending after a \$5.2 billion rise in October. The pound benefited also from the weaker dollar later in the week. UK GDP rose 0.5 per cent against a forecast gain of 0.7 per cent, a 0.2 per cent rise in the 2Q, to stand 1.9 per cent higher than a year earlier. A survey of British investment intentions this autumn indicates a rise in 1990 of around 1 per cent in the volume of investment by manufacturing industry and a larger increase in 1991.

**Japanese yen**  
The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 143.45/55 yen and closed the week higher at 142.30/40 yen compared to its week before last closing at 144.00/10 yen. The yen's relative strength was supported by market rumours as well as speculations over another official discount rate rise.

Japanese government expects consumer as well as wholesale price inflation to ease in coming fiscal year 1990/91, and according to government officials it forecasts a 1.6 per cent rise in consumer prices in the year starting 1 April 1990, following an increase of 2.7 per cent this fiscal year, while wholesale prices are forecasted to rise 0.6 per cent following a 3.5 per cent increase. However, inflation is expected to show little change next fiscal year, after factoring out the impact of the 3 per cent consumption tax introduced last April.

Bank of Japan's governor Yasuhiro Mieno said the central bank is still monitoring the impact of the last official discount rate increase. Mieno made his comments in response to questions raised whether the central bank is planning to raise the discount rate soon. Bank of Japan last raised its discount rate in October to 3.5 per cent.

**Deutsche mark**  
The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.7240/50 marks and closed the week higher at 1.7065/75 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.7170/80 marks, and despite the thin money market characterised ahead of holidays, the mark continued to gain strength over the week against the dollar as well as major world currencies.

Although W. German interest rates have so far peaked, however the Bundesbank has said it will keep a close watch on inflation before next year's key wage negotiations. Furthermore, nobody expects German interest rates to come down, although there is still a chance that the Bundesbank will have to raise its rates again soon. The OECD last week raised its forecast for 1990 economic growth in W. Germany to a real 3.2 per cent, up from the 2.75 per cent its forecast in its June report.

**French franc**  
The French franc opened the week lower against the US dollar at 5.8895/25 FFfr and closed higher at 5.8830/60 FFfr compared to its week before last closing at 5.8725/35 FFfr. The National Statistics Institute said in its latest economic outlook that GDP growth would slow to an average 3.6 per cent this year from 3.9 per cent in 1988. Inflation is forecast at 1.9 per cent at the end of the first six months of 1990, against 3.6 per cent at the end of 1989.

**Swiss franc**  
The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.5450/60 SFR and closed slightly lower at 1.5480/90 SFR, compared to its week before last closing at 1.5470/80 SFR. The Swiss unemployment rate was unchanged in November at 0.5 per cent.

**Precious metals**  
Political unrest in Eastern Europe and Central America continued to promote buying interest. Events in Romania, where President Ceausescu was deposed after violent clashes had little impact on gold. However, the market could move this week on developments in Eastern Europe. Increased demand for gold from people in Eastern Europe may result as they seek to safeguard their savings at a time of economic difficulty.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 407/407.50 \$/oz and closed at 413/413.50 \$/oz, recording a gain of 1.30 \$/oz over the previous week's closing at 412.20 \$/oz. Silver bullion prices opened the week at 5.55/5.57 \$/oz and closed higher at 5.59/5.61 \$/oz, but recorded a loss of 1 cent over the previous week's closing at 5.60/5.62 \$/oz.

Platinum prices opened the week at 503/506 \$/oz, and closed higher at 509/510 \$/oz, but recorded a slight loss of 1.50 \$/oz over the previous week's closing at 510.50/511 \$/oz.

## Indian Airlines, Air India MDs asked to work as chairmen

NEW DELHI, Dec 24: The government of India has asked the managing directors of the two public sector airlines corporations to concurrently work as chairmen of their respective boards, according to a newspaper report.

In a message to the managing directors of Indian Airlines and Air India, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed that the MDs should function as chairmen as well. The chairmen's posts had fallen vacant following the resignation of the two chairmen of the two corporations.

However, the government has not notified this and made any permanent commitment. The letters to the chief executive officers of the two corporations had mentioned that in their executive capacity as managing directors they should be looking after the work of chairmen. This, bureaucrats point out, leaves open any future choice for the two top posts.

On the other hand, there is some speculation whether the authorities intended to merge the two posts of chairman and managing director and club them together as chairman-cum-managing director as in the case of a number of public sector undertakings.

Ratan Tata, chairman, Air India and Rahul Bajaj, chairman, Indian Airlines, had tendered their resignation on the ground that the new government should have adequate opportunity to put their own selections in key areas.

On the other hand, the new minister of Civil Aviation, Arif Mohammed Khan stated that while the new government would not, on its own sack the chairmen, any resignations would be accepted.

Tata and Bajaj joined the boards of the two corporations when the union government decided to involve top level private sector industrialists in the management of public sector units.

The air corporations were in fact the first and only public sector units which underwent this process of experiment. The experiences were not all along happy and soon the non-executive chairmen from outside fell out with the executive managing directors. This was pronounced in Air India.

The new minister had several rounds of discussions with the ministry officials and assured them of full independence in managing the affairs of the corporations. Apparently, the government was not very happy with the state of the two corporations

and asked them to improve their functioning and particularly to tune up their services.

Khan had also mentioned that the responsibility for running the organisations revolved on the "top functionaries" and they should be held responsible for performance.

Meanwhile Indian Airlines has administered a kind of shock therapy to the European aircraft manufacturing consortium, Airbus Industrie. Indian Airlines has obtained damages to the tune of \$800,000 for delay in supply of aircraft on account of some snags in September this year.

Last week, IA has refused to take delivery of an aircraft from Airbus Industrie, which had been repaired by the latter following a damage caused by a hailstorm. IA had put its foot down on the ground that it would not accept a repaired aircraft.

Airbus Industrie contended that the DGAC of France (which is the French counterpart of DGCA) had accepted the air-worthiness of the aircraft and there was no reason why Indian Airlines should not accept it. IA maintained that since it had paid the price of a brand new aircraft (\$35 million), it would not accept a repaired aircraft.

Subsequently, Airbus Industrie had agreed to replace an entire fuselage panel. Replacement of the fuselage panel is estimated to cost around \$1.2 million, according to aviation sources.

The aircraft was parked outside in Airbus Industrie's plant in Toulouse in south of France and the fuselage skin was severely dented after a hailstorm.

The manufacturer had contacted Indian Airlines and offered its repair at its own cost.

However, the IA authorities turned down the offer and insisted that the entire panel would have to be replaced. The aircraft would not have to be sent to the West German plant of Airbus Industrie for replacement of the fuselage panel.

Indian Airlines is likely to claim damages as well for the delay in supply of the aircraft. These will be finalised once the complete details of the repair schedule are available from Airbus Industrie. Airbus Industrie has been asked to provide the details within the current week.

Besides these, Indian Airlines had exercised its option for purchase of 12 more aircraft. The second batch of aircraft are to be supplied from September 1990 to March 1991.

## Electronics fair sets new records

THE Hong Kong International Electronics Fair '89, which ended last month generated a total of HK\$801.41 million worth of business, exceeding last year's record figure by 86 per cent.

The four-day fair, held at the new Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, attracted 19,000 buyers, a 25 per cent increase over last year's number. A total of 4,500 visitors were from overseas, while 14,500 were local, representing a jump of 9 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

Organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the fair, which is the largest of its kind in the territory, was fully internationalised for the first time this year in exhibitor terms. Forty-four overseas and 224 local companies took part.

David Shterengberg, president of Steren Electronics, a major importer from Mexico who has attended the fair for the last three years, described this year's event as a considerable improvement upon previous fairs.

"This year's show was impressive and the product scope was very broad," he said. "We were surprised at the interest Hong Kong manufacturers showed in learning what our market demands in terms of quality and design."

A visitor from the United States, David Shatz, business manager of Wallace International, said he had just visited another electronics fair in the region and found the Hong Kong fair was better organised and the venue impressive.

Being an OEM buyer, he said the exhibition also offered a good opportunity for him to meet other electronics buyers at his Hong Kong supplier's booth. He said he was satisfied with the number of serious buyers, from Europe, Australia and Japan.

**Malaysia to accept investment offers**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24, (Kuna): The Malaysian government is willing to consider offers by foreign investors keen on investing in the country's tourism industry, culture and tourism ministry secretary-general Khalid Ismail said today.

He was commenting on reports of Japanese entrepreneur, Masachi Igarashi's plans to invest \$74 million in the Malaysian tourism industry including to purchase two Tourist Development Corporation (TDC) hotels.

Khalid told newsmen here, his ministry had received several attractive offers from foreign companies to develop the country's tourism industry.

He said the government has also given the approval for a Japanese consortium to develop Desaru, a popular sea resort in Johor state south of here.

"The government is willing to accept investment offers depend on the policy set," he said.

Khalid added companies from Taiwan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom and France had also shown interest in investing in local tourism industry.

## American prime rates likely to dip, says NBK study

GIVEN the holiday season the markets were typically quiet and lacklustre with thin trading. In that most indicators continued to provide adequate evidence of slowdown the Federal Reserve, as anticipated, eased its monetary stance. The Fed funds rate was lowered by another quarter percentage point to stand at 8.25 per cent. Despite the uncertainties of Eastern Europe and Panama, the dollar showed little gain on its "safe haven" status and over the week as a whole continued to weaken against a strong DM, according to NBK weekly market reports.

The dollar ended the week at: DM1.714 and Y143.4.

Given the Fed's policy ease we expect US prime rates to fall in tandem whilst a half-percentage point discount rate decline remains anticipated for early 1990. Consequently with policy in Europe erring on the side of restraint interest rate differentials will continue to undermine the dollar. Therefore for the immediate future the dollar is liable to remain weak particularly vis a vis the DM and even the yen on expectations that the Central Bank of Japan will increase its official interest rates.

As we go into early 1990 some dollar retrenchment is possible. However, the continuing adverse interest rate differential, the relative structural weakness of the US economy and investor reappraisal in favour of European assets will act against the dollar.

Trading ranges for the coming week are as follows: DM1.68-1.73 and Yen 140-145.

A quiet week with sterling benefiting fractionally from dollar weakness. Only a few indicators this week — and those on bank lending provide evidence of slowdown in response to the current tight credit policy.

Sterling ended the week at: £/\$1.617 and £/DM2.768.

Although GNP data at 1.9 per cent for the year appears relatively robust, for 1990 a recession in the UK is a possibility. Inflationary pressures, notably from high wage settlements suggests that interest rates will stay where they are for some time to come.

However, all indicators on the real economy and notably home sales, manufacturing investment and retail sales, are significantly down on a year to year basis.

For the time being sterling remains reasonably

underpinned by the high interest rate differential, however, the currency remains vulnerable to the country's expanded current account deficit representing 3 per cent of GNP, and above average OECD inflation.

Trading ranges for the coming week are expected to be as follows: DM2.74-2.78 and £/\$1.



14-karat cuisine

# Japan tries golden taste

TOKYO, (AP): Entrepreneurs are targeting affluent Japanese with a glittery scheme to generate business. Trying to develop a taste for 14-karat cuisine featuring gold-spiked goodies ranging from sake to sushi.

Catering to Japan's gold gourmets, the Sogo Department Store in Nara, an ancient city famous for its quiet Buddhist temples, evasions selling its customers, "the 50,000 yen (\$350) cup of coffee," laced, of course, with gold.

Beginning in March, customers will be able to sit before a Renoir painting valued at 100 million yen (\$700,000) and be served coffee brewed with blue mountain beans and French mineral water, according to spokesman Nobuhisa Tomishige.

Tomishige said the coffee, served from a golden teapot, will be topped with gold dust. To eliminate distractions, only four customers at a time will be allowed into the shop, modelled after the residences of British royalty.

When asked what kind of people Sogo hopes to attract, Tomishige said: "The rich, mainly."

He said a rush on golden goodies, and Sogo's plans to cash in on them, reflect the "overflowing money phenomenon," a trend among Japanese consumers to spend an increasing amount of their money on high-priced goods.

Sogo is by no means alone in the edible gold market. An entrepreneur in Osaka, a western Japan, sells sushi served in gold-leafed paper-thin gold foil.

Tomishige, he said, bristled at the Japanese consumers, desire for luxury or quality goods, and their increasing ability to pay the price.

Just down the street from Mitsukoshi, a mouse au fromage bite-size cake with golden sprinkling on top goes for 350 yen (\$2.40) at the Matsuzakaya department store's Shiseido parlour.

Like many Japanese sake brewers, the Fukumusume Co. sells bottles of clear rice wine that when tilted glitter with a blizzard of golden flakes. A bottle costs 3,000-5,000 yen (\$21-\$35), three to four times the cost without the gold, said spokesman Yutaka Takahashi.

"The idea of putting gold in drinks goes back a long way, because we have always kind of equated gold with auspicious events," Takahashi said. He said Fukumusume began marketing golden sake to commemorate the marriage of Emperor Akihito in 1959, and sales have been growing.

"We expect to sell about 80 per cent of our golden sake during the winter holidays season, and the other 20 per cent as summer gifts," Takahashi said from company headquarters in Kobe, in western Japan.

Along with its stocks of gold sake, the swank Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo's famous Ginza shopping district is ready to quench its customers' thirst for the precious metal with packs of gold flake mixed with Japanese green tea leaves for 3,000 yen (\$21), though a clerk said delivery of the specially ordered drink can take several days.

For those with a hunger for gold, Mitsukoshi offers an ornate box of five gold-crowned chocolate for 10,000 yen (\$70).

"We really just started stockpiling a wide variety of gold-flaked goods," said Mitsukoshi spokesman Junji Tanaka. Like Tomishige, he said brisk sales reflect the Japanese consumers, desire for luxury or quality goods, and their increasing ability to pay the price.

Gold "should be safe and digestible if taken in small quantities," said Dr Takashi Higuchi, a researcher at Fukui Medical School, who said he knew of no

government regulations on use of gold in food.

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Santa needs a passport

Santa Claus hands his passport over to a border guard at the Heinrich Heine crossing point after the East German government lifted the last visa and currency requirements. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Boyd owes career to a guitar, concert ticket

# Xmas gift that changed a life

TORONTO, (Reuter): It is a rare Christmas present that changes a person's life. But Liana Boyd, one of the world's most popular classical guitarists, received such a gift.

In fact, she owes her career to Christmas and the gift, when she was aged 14, of an acoustic guitar "that transformed my entire life."

Several months after receiving the guitar, Boyd received another gift — a ticket to a concert by classical guitarist Julian Bream. That concert decided a career, she said.

"You never know the effect of a Christmas present," she added in an interview with Reuters.

Her 16th album "Christmas Dreams," features delicate renditions of 10 holiday classics and four new songs, three of them written or co-written by Boyd, including the title song. It is available in Canada and the United States and will be released in Europe and Asia next year.

Boyd, 39, also decided to sing on the title song and brought in country singer Roger Whittaker, pan pipes master Georges Zamfir and the Toronto Children's Chorus to help her out.

Sitting in the comfortable house overlooking Lake Ontario that she shares with her husband, she said she enjoyed singing, but has been nervous about her voice for a long time.

"I was thrown out of a choir when I was six," she said. "I was never able to sing and hated music for that reason," a situation that changed when she received her Christmas guitar.

Born in England, she moved to Canada with her family at the age of seven, but made frequent return trips.

Christmas was often spent in England with her grandmother in Stoke-on-Trent, about 30 miles (50 km) south of Manchester.

"Those were my earliest concerts. I played Melodica and Recorder. I was 10 and my sister was nine and we would go out carolling. If we got any money, half we would keep and half we would give to the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)," she said.

But Boyd, who travelled a good deal even before she began her musical career, has also spent Christmas in Mexico and Morocco. She has a special affection for Latin American music after living in Mexico for a year while her father, an art teacher, was on sabbatical.

The song "Christmas Dreams" was written during high summer on a trip to Istanbul. "I was learning Christmas songs as I heard the muezzin (religious crier) calling Muslims to prayer," she said.

She spoke just after returning from an 11-city European tour, opening for Tracy Chapman. Although Boyd has long since reached the status of headliner, she did not disdain taking a secondary role on that tour.

"I hadn't done an opening since Gordon Lightfoot (in 1976), but I thought this was a great opportunity. I hadn't played all those big opera houses and for me, it was a way of reaching a much bigger audience

since I haven't done as much in Europe except music festivals," she said.

The tour played Munich, Frankfurt and Hamburg at the time the Berlin Wall fell and the musicians were caught up in the intense "feeling of celebration in the air," she said.

It's been a busy year for the guitarist with the long, blonde hair.

Three weeks before the European visit, she completed an extensive Far Eastern tour and was scheduled to head off to several Canadian dates towards the end of the year.

Boyd attracted notice from her first album, "The Guitar," which sold 30,000 copies in Canada in 1975.

The phrase "flawless technique" was used in more than one review. She mastered two difficult guitar fingering methods, the Segovia and Lagoya, and became known for her sensitive interpretations in a repertoire ranging from classical Spanish pieces to folk songs and, later, pop and new age music.

Her albums and guitar music books now sell internationally and she has been named Classical Guitarist of the Year four times by Guitar Player magazine.

Her adopted country has awarded her its highest civilian honour, the Order of Canada.

In 1984 she took a year off from touring and headed for Vancouver to think and to try composing. "I never thought composing was necessary for a career. B.C. didn't and none of my teachers encouraged me."

# Overweight Egyptian women learn to slim

There is a definite shift in the norms of beauty: men consider fatties unattractive

CAIRO, (Reuter): Dozens of overweight Egyptian women bend, twist and jump in Cairo's first public obesity clinic, many exercising for the first time since they were little girls.

Housewife Samia Abbas weighed 118.5 kg (260 pounds) when she went to the clinic in late October. Today, she is 10 kg (22 pounds) lighter.

"Before, I was always tired, breathless, unable to move," said Abbas, dressed in a black sweatshirt and black trousers with a scarf on her head. "Now I grab every opportunity to go out."

"From now on, I refuse to be trapped in this prison of fat."

Salwa El Khouli, one of five doctors running the centre, said obesity, once regarded as pleasing by Egyptian men, is now considered unattractive.

"There is a definite shift in the norms of beauty in

our society," she observed.

"Egyptian men liked their women fat," Abbas told Reuters. "The fatter a woman was, the more appealing she was and the more likely she got suitors. But all that is changing now."

Doctors estimate 10 million of Egypt's 53 million people are overweight because their staple diet consists of starch and carbohydrates as meat and fruit are expensive, and they do not exercise.

Khouli said more and more Egyptians were becoming aware through radio health programmes and television series that exercise is vital to their well-being.

Hundreds of Egyptian women, many clad in Islamic headresses, scarves or traditional all-enveloping black jellaba, are flocking to the clinic in Cairo's densely-populated Shubra district. Men and

children are also enrolling.

A few years ago, only very courageous women joggers ventured out on the streets of Cairo, ignoring insults, stares and remarks from men. Now, many pound the pavements in the early morning.

Some women were even starting to challenge stringent social rules, convincing their husbands and fathers that an hour of exercise three times a week would not harm their reputations or affect their family duties, Khouli said.

"My husband is encouraging me to lose weight," said Nadia Abdel-Sadeq, 46, who weighs 92 kg (202 pounds), down from 103 (226 pounds) three months ago. "But he was annoyed at first about my going out."

She said people like herself, brought up to believe a woman's place was in the home, could not go out

on errands — let alone to exercise classes — without their husbands' permission.

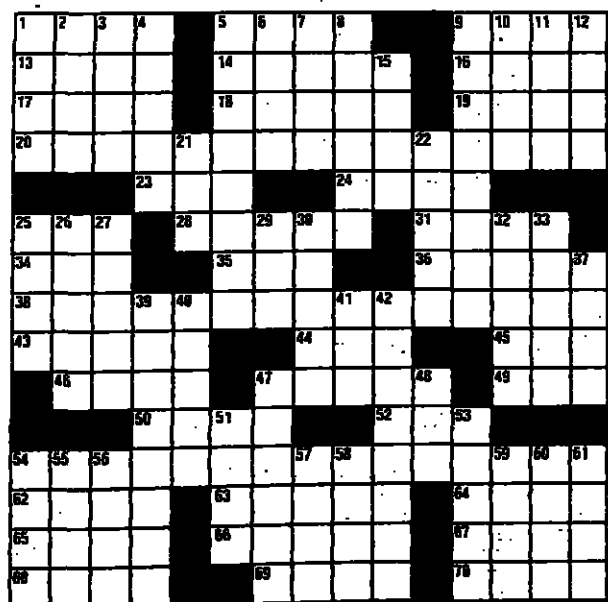
In this patriarchal society governed by strong religious sentiment, a woman's main role in life is to marry, have children, stay home and care for her family.

Khouli said some of her female patients live in distant rural governorates but travel alone to the clinic each day.

"This was unheard of before. Men are beginning to understand that it is not unusual for a woman to exercise," she said.

Khouli said about 1,300 patients — men, women and children — visit the clinic each day. The centre consists of three exercise rooms equipped with bars, mirrors and cycling equipment.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Young horse
  - Cook's needs
  - Scarlett's home
  - It's a sin to tell
  - Overact
  - Do a Tuesday chore
  - Sly look
  - Majestic
  - Small fly
  - Distinguished
  - 1776 group
  - Droop
  - Dart
  - Native
  - American
  - Transactions
  - Actor Lugosi
  - German exclamation
  - Since
  - River to the Rhine
  - Unportrayed parent
  - Mistler, in Montarrey
  - Slippery one
  - Santa — Calif.
  - Garb for a rain
  - Sly one
  - Sinking ship
  - Major follower
  - Famous "Stooge"
  - Seasonal visitor, in London
  - 1975 Wimbledon champ
  - Heavenly hunter
  - River in Zaire
  - Willow
  - Remove mist
  - Beloved
  - Author Ayn
  - Musician
- DOWN**
- Volcano in Italy
  - Leg part
  - Bread spread
  - Steal, with "in"
  - Sea birds
  - Kind of tide
  - So be it
  - Carpenter's shaping tool
  - Rods
  - Most secure
  - "Rule Britannia" composer
  - Sound from the lion's den
  - Picnic pests
  - Israeli airline
  - Pop
  - Leg bone
  - Cuts wood
  - Pange
  - Porcelain wars
  - Bronze, for one
  - Actress Sophia
  - "The Merry
  - Widow" composer
  - Sports palace
  - Part of QED
  - Poor loser
  - Hackneyed
  - Observe
  - Pink bird
  - "I've Got a"
  - Puts down for the count
  - 51-Walked upon
  - Musical piece
  - Unbiased
  - Movie dog
  - At that time
  - Type of amplifier
  - Cheer for the home team
  - Encounter
  - Aida
  - or King
  - Evening, in Rome
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- JEEP SATIAN IMAM  
ETAL GROPE MOLE  
STRAPTRAPSSPRAT  
TAPIR DETATINEE  
CELA ALL  
PARESSPARESPPEAR  
ANH STIR ARNIE  
GAUL SAMBA COMB  
EMMETT ORDO LEI  
DEBARBARREDBEARD  
IRE ASIA  
SAWSTARS ESTEE  
STAKEKATISTEAK  
TONE ETAPETRE  
SPEW SEGAL FRIEND

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
SHIELD THE WEAKNESS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 6  
♥ A J 10 9 5  
♦ K Q J 8  
♣ Q 7

**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 7 4  
♥ 8 6 2  
♦ 5 2  
♣ K 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ 8  
♥ Q 7 3  
♦ A 4 3  
♣ 10 9 6 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 5 3 2  
♥ K 4  
♦ 10 9 7 6  
♣ A J

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠  
How do you know whether you can afford to take a safety play? Count your tricks, and you'll soon discover the answer to that question. Willingness to surrender a trick here will insure your contract.

We are indebted to the *Midwest Monitor* for this hand. No bidding was given to show how North-South reached the inelegant con-

tract of four no trump, but it might have gone as in the diagram. Note that six diamonds is frigid with any lead other than a club and would be completely safe had South declared.

Against four no trump West led the jack of spades. Since that suggested spades were unlikely to break, declarer could count only six fast tricks. Three more could be established in diamonds by forcing out the ace, and at least one more could be developed in hearts.

Both red suits must be attacked, but which suit should be played first? The soft underbelly of the hand is the club suit—declarer cannot afford to have a club led through his tenace too early. Since he has at least a trick to spare, that dictates how the hand should be played. East must be kept off lead.

Therefore, declarer should win the first trick in dummy and run the jack of hearts. If it wins, he can force out the ace of diamonds and has 10 tricks guaranteed. If it loses, West cannot attack clubs profitably. Declarer can win any return, force out the ace of diamonds and 11 tricks are a certainty. (As the cards lie, South will actually take 12 tricks since hearts break evenly.)

## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

**Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
Beware of imbibing too much of the Christmas spirit. Something you have long tried to do will now become possible. Avoid dwelling on the past. Be prepared to make a few concessions.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
You will be able to make up for a past shortcoming. Take even more care than usual when driving or walking. Ensure you are correctly dressed for the climate and occasion. Be conscientious.

**Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)**  
Make sure that goodwill wins through and do make allowance. Do not expect others to love you for yourself alone, do reciprocate their affection. Try to avoid going to bed too late. Be as good as your word.

**Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19**  
Take care you do not drink more than is good for you and do not drive if you have been drinking. Show a little more deference towards your elders. Do not shy away from demonstrating how much you love your partner and family. Be forgiving.

**Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
You would do well not to eat and drink to the point where you feel ill. If you show considerations it will be greatly appreciated. Avoid doing anything that might embarrass your partners. Be less selfish.

**Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
Do not try to be imperious nor expect others to agree with all you say. You should be careful about leaving doors and windows unlocked, burglars do not take holidays. Do not tell people just what you think of them.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)**  
Do not allow yourself to be obsessed by negative thoughts. Your lucky numbers are 32 and 17. Do not hesitate to demonstrate your love and affection. Do not ask for more than you know you deserve. Be respectful.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**  
Now is the time to show how loving you are. Make sure you do not drive if you have had a lot to drink. If you have made a promise, keep it. Be resourceful.

**Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
Now is the time to forgive and to forget. You should behave with a little more deference towards your elders. Think of the good and positive aspects and avoid being gloomy. Be responsive.

**Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
Do not obscure the boundary between what is funny and what is serious. Make sure you show your gratitude, even if you receive a present that is not quite what you wished for. Make a few more allowances. Be reliable.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Make sure you do not allow a family disagreement to become a major quarrel. An old grievance was best forgotten. An old friend who has moved will be pleased to hear from you... Be hospitable.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
Make some allowances and do think of those less fortunate than you. You should not forget something you have said you would do. Try not to get in other people's way. Be fair.

**BOOKS**

"Have you got that book, 'How to Be Six Feet Tall Under Hypnosis?'"







## Largest ends 14-year career

# Browns, Bills clinch titles

HOUSTON, Dec. 24, (AP)—Kevin Mack's four-yard touchdown run with 39 seconds left last night gave the Cleveland Browns a 24-20 victory over Houston and their fourth AFC Central title in the last five years.

Earlier, yesterday, Buffalo blanked the New York Jets 37-0 for their second straight AFC East championship, and Washington shut out Seattle 29-0.

Mack's touchdown came at the end of a 58-yard, nine-play drive engineered by Bernie Kosar after the Browns had squandered a 17-0 lead and appeared headed for defeat when Warren Moon hit Drew Hill with a 27-yard touchdown pass with 4:46 left.

Cleveland finished the season at 9-6-1, half a game ahead of the Oilers in the division. It left Houston at 9-7, with a chance at a wild card if either Indianapolis loses to New Orleans this evening or Cincinnati loses to Minnesota tomorrow night.

The Browns, who overcame a 400-yard passing performance by Moon, will not play host to a playoff game in two weeks. Jim Kelly threw for two touchdowns in the Buffalo Bills' victory. The game started with the temperature at 16 degrees and the wind-chill factor at minus-11. There were 21,148 in attendance but there were 55,743 no-shows in what has widely been speculated as the last game for Jets head coach Joe Walton.



Bills' Andre Reed (left) uses his arm to get away from Jets' James Hasty after catching a pass from Jim Kelly. (Reuters wirephoto)

The crowd was the smallest at a non-replacement Jets game since 5,826 attended a game against Buffalo at the polo grounds on Dec. 14, 1983.

The Bills, who had lost five of seven, snapped a three-game losing streak with the easy win and they enter the playoffs at 9-7.

The division title was the sixth for the Bills, who lost to Cincinnati in the AFC championship game last season.

The Jets, who lost to Buffalo 34-3 earlier in the season, finished 4-12, their worst mark since that same one in 1980. Instead of playoffs, what awaits the franchise is a much-awaited meeting on Tuesday between Walton and newly hired general manager Dick Steinberg.

The Washington Redskins achieved their shut-out over the Seattle Seahawks behind the passing of Mark Rypien and the running of Earnest Byner.

Washington's Steve Largent finished his career yesterday, catching two passes for 41 yards to extend his consecutive game reception record to 177.

"It was an emotional time for me," Largent said. "But I'm pretty disgusted with the way we played."

### Standings

Standings of National Football League teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, tied, points for, against):

American Conference				
Eastern Division				
X-Buffalo	9	7	0	409 317
Miami	8	7	0	307 352
Indianapolis	6	7	0	252 260
New England	5	10	0	277 367
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	253 411
Central Division				
X-Cleveland	9	6	1	334 254
Houston	9	7	0	365 412
Cincinnati	8	7	0	383 256
Pittsburgh	8	7	0	234 304
Western Division				
X-Denver	11	4	0	346 207
L.A.	8	7	0	298 263
Kansas City	7	7	1	291 262
Seattle	7	9	0	241 277
San Diego	5	10	0	247 274
National Conference				
Eastern Division				
X-N.Y. Giants	11	4	0	314 235
Philadelphia	10	5	0	311 260
Washington	10	6	0	386 308
Phoenix	5	10	0	244 346
Dallas	1	14	0	194 373
Central Division				
Minnesota	9	6	0	322 254
Green Bay	9	6	0	342 346
Detroit	6	9	0	281 340
Chicago	6	9	0	358 351
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	298 368
Western Division				
X-San Francisco	13	2	0	416 253
L.A. Rams	10	5	0	402 324
New Orleans	7	7	0	315 275
Atlanta	3	12	0	255 406
X-clinched division title				
Y-clinched wild card berth				

## East bloc countries undergo changes

EAST BERLIN, Dec. 24, (AP)—Andreas Wecker had it all: a room full of medals, the adulation of his countrymen and a finely tuned young body that was taking him to the top of world gymnastics.

But suddenly, Wecker's accomplishments are being carefully scrutinized and his future is uncertain—and not because of anything the East German teenager has done inside, or outside, the gym.

Wecker is among the East bloc athletes whose careers have been caught up in the political revolution taking place in their countries.

While East Germans question whether international athletic prowess has been overemphasized, Romanians rue the defection of gymnastics queen Nadia Comaneci to the United States, and Czechoslovak and Bulgarian athletes are admitting drug use.

The athletic powerhouses of the East may be in for a housecleaning. "I see black times ahead. I think GDR (East German) sports will go downhill in the next few years," sports writer Andreas Goetze said. "It's because of the revolution."

Goetze, a former gymnastics champion who works for the East German newspaper Junge Welt (Young World), said his country is starting to put sports in perspective.

"In the old days the government was a big supporter of sports," he said. "But now we have other big problems, like repairing the economy."

The countries of the East bloc traditionally have won a disproportionately large number of Olympic and world championships.

East Germany, a nation of only 16 million people, ranks third in Olympic medals over the last two decades, trailing only the Soviet Union and the United States. Bulgaria has produced dozens of weightlifting champions, Romania is famed for its gymnasts and Czechoslovakia for its tennis players.

The countries owe their sports accomplishments in part to strict, centrally controlled training programmes and the scientific selection of youngsters as future stars.

The East bloc nations also have made it extremely desirable to be an athlete, offering social and economic privileges denied to other citizens, such as apartments, automobiles and foreign travel.

But the political restructuring this fall has increased demands that more resources be devoted to public sports facilities and less to a handful of elite athletes.

Those calls for redistributing sports wealth have been loudest in East Germany, where the national sports federation has been purged amid accusations it pampered its leaders and top athletes.

"The old leadership had a Stalinist, centralized approach to sports," said Werner Neumann, a newly elected official in the East German Sports Federation. "The old state leadership used sports—misused sports—to project itself to the world, especially (former leader Erich) Honecker, who liked to show himself with the medal winners."



Keeping (left) and De Bie on their way to Failaka.

## De Bie and Keeping windsurf to Failaka

TWO of Messilah Beach Hotel's experienced surfers—Wouly de Bie—Kuwait's junior national water polo team coach and Bruce Keeping—Division I British Windsurfing champion achieved a first for Kuwait by windsurfing to Failaka Island and back from the hotel's beach, a round trip to 58 km in an overall record time of 2 hrs and 45 min.

As the journey progressed the sea became rough with winds measured at force 4. The guidance of the coast guards and the support vessel Messalah II piloted by recreation manager Mark Egginton assisted by Laila Pascoia, ensured there was no difficulty in finding the way to Failaka Island.

The first leg—Messilah to Failaka took 1 hour and 40 min. The wind being light. The moderate average speed was 17 kmph.

On arrival at Failaka, the entire "cold" expedition was grateful for the lunch supplied by the sponsors (Isostar and Messilah Beach Hotel) and the facilities provided by the Mukhtar, the coast guards and the harbour authorities.

The expedition stayed on the island for one hour before setting off for MBH. By now, the wind and sea state had increased which resulted in an exciting sailing for the two windsurfers. At times, they found it difficult to keep their boards on the water as the waves acted like take off ramps, and their speeds were hitting 40 kmph. The sea smell was such that the windsurfers were lost from view by the coast guard boat for short periods.

As the expedition came to within 4 to 5 km of Kuwait's coast line, the wind dropped much to the annoyance of the windsurfers as they have hoped to return in under an hour, but like they said "next time." The average speed for this leg was 27 kmph.

The windsurfers would like to thank Yacoub Al Shatti for coordinating the event, the sponsors and the MBH support boat for making the event possible.

A grateful thanks must go to the coast guards who led the event from the start to the very end.

## Eernsebner finishes first

TOKYO, Dec. 24, (AP)—Austrian Reinhard Eernsebner today posted his second victory in two weeks in Japan, taking the Toshiba Bazooka Cup, the second leg of the 12 dual ski races on Japan's Professional Ski Tour.

Eernsebner collected 55 points and earned 1.7 million yen (\$11,700). He won the first leg, the Pax Cup, last Sunday.

After winning the giant slalom yesterday, Eernsebner finished fourth place in today's slalom race over the 310-metre (310-

yard) rusutsu resort ski course in Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island.

In a duel ski race, two competitors ski side by side on separate courses, then change sides and race again.

Tied for second at 45 points were Austrian Ewald Zirbisegger and Marc Garcia of France, who won today's slalom event.

Magnus Berg of Sweden finished fourth at 40 points, followed by Anders Frost of Sweden at 35 points.

## Lemond gets Sportsman of the Year award

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 24, (AP)—Bicyclist Greg Lemond, who won the grueling Tour de France this year only two years after nearly dying in a hunting accident, was named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year.

Lemond, 28, the only American to win the prestigious race around France, is the first cyclist to receive the magazine's honour in its 36-year history.

"It was really a very simple choice made by the individual himself on that Sunday in Paris, when, with 15.2 miles (24.5 kilometers) to go in a 2,025-mile (3,260-kilometre) race, he not only beat leader Laurent Fignon, he beat him by 8 seconds," managing editor Mark Mulvoy told reporters. "Everybody said the man did the impossible. Indeed, he did."

Mulvoy said others considered for the award also included West German tennis stars Steffi Graf and Boris Becker.

## Navratilova, Lendl looking East

NEW YORK, Dec. 24, (AP)—They left Czechoslovakia not knowing if they would ever see their families again. Then suddenly, almost without warning, Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova watched in disbelief as their homeland rushed toward freedom.

"Ten days ago, if you told me Czechoslovakia was next, I would tell you you are crazy, especially after the experience people had there in '68," Lendl said in New York at the Masters tennis tournament in late November.

"I was a bit surprised, but, as I said, I am very happy," said the man who was 34 years old when Soviet troops rolled into Prague in 1968 to crush the Czechoslovakian Communist Party's attempt to find its own socialist path.

"When they opened the wall in Berlin, it happened the same day I had to default in Chicago," said Navratilova, who was nearly 12 that summer of '68.

"I was sad because I couldn't play, but I put it into context to what was happening over there... it did put it in perspective."

As the wave of democracy swept into Czechoslovakia, both Navratilova and Lendl telephoned home.

"I keep asking (my parents) what's going on," Lendl said. "I need a little more information, so I talk to them and... they tell me whatever they know."

Both players now live in the United States, Navratilova splitting her time between Fort Worth, Texas, and Aspen, Colorado, while Lendl has a home in Greenwich, Connecticut. Both say they left Czechoslovakia to become better tennis players. And they also have become the richest.

Navratilova defected to the United States during the US Open in 1975. She became a United States citizen in 1981.

Lendl was allowed to move to the United States earlier this decade, thanks to Navratilova.

"I really owe a lot to her," Lendl said. "I believe, neither Martina nor I would have become No. 1 if we'd stayed in Czechoslovakia."

In her book, "Martina," published in 1985, Navratilova said she "didn't want to defect, not totally. I just wanted to play tennis."

At the recently concluded Virginia Slims Championships in New York, she remembered.

"I don't know how I did it," she said. "You know, I was 18 years old. I don't know if I could do it now if I had to."

"Sure, I had some misgivings, but it didn't really hit home that I couldn't see my parents maybe for 10 years. It ended up being five years, but when you are 18 you don't think in

those terms, of 5 or 10 years. You think you're going to live forever and you are going to play tennis forever."

"Now, when I look back, I think, God, how did I ever have the guts to do it? I am glad I did it. The only regret I have is that I was forced to do it. I couldn't see my family and I had to give that up so that I could pursue my dream, and that was to play tennis wherever and whenever I wanted to."

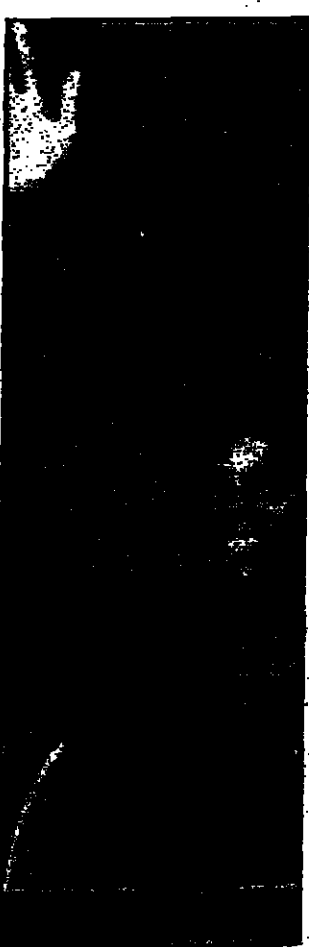
Since her defection, Navratilova has won 50 Grand Slam tournament titles, including a record-tying eight Wimbledon singles crowns. She currently is ranked second in the world, behind West Germany's Steffi Graf.

Lendl, the top-ranked male player in the world, has won seven Grand Slam singles and has reached the final in eight consecutive US Opens.

Lendl earned \$2,344,367 this year, pushing his career total to \$15,626,336, finally moving past Navratilova, who earned \$1,285,614 in 1989 and \$15,343,814 in her career.

Though both say the recent changes in Czechoslovakia don't affect them much personally, they plan to visit their native land in 1990. Navratilova's only trip to Czechoslovakia since her defection was in 1986, when she was a member of the victorious US Federation Cup team.

## Lewis crusades on behalf of patient



Carl Lewis

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24, (AP)—Liver transplant recipient Wendy Marx was stunned to learn Olympic track star Carl Lewis had crusaded on her behalf for a donor.

"I was still in CPU (cardiopulmonary unit) when the nurse said, 'you must be somebody special to have Carl Lewis visit you,'" Marx recounted. "I said, 'Carl Lewis didn't visit me.' She said, 'yes he did, and I got his autograph.' I thought she must be crazy."

The Nov. 27 transplant was successful, and Marx was released from Pacific Presbyterian Medical Centre to a hospital-run apartment.

"It was only after a donor was found through a national search and the operation was performed, on the then-comatose Marx that the 22-year-old advertising company office manager learned of Lewis' televised appeal for a donor."

Marx's brother, Jeffrey, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, has been working for the past year on the athlete's autobiography.

Marx's family was told that she had as little as 24 hours to live. In a rare reaction to Hepatitis B, her immune system had destroyed her liver.

## Request denied

ATLANTIC CITY, US, Dec. 24, (UPI)—A New Jersey superior court judge has denied a request for an injunction to stop January 15 heavyweight bout between George Foreman and Gerry Cooney.

Bilal Mohammad and Bahar Mohammed brought a case against Foreman, promoter Top Rank Inc. and host Caesars World, stating they had fight contracts with Foreman.

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## SPORTS

## Suns keep Clippers winless on the road

## 76ers take Bulls to task

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24, (AP) Charles Barkley had 33 points and 13 rebounds last night as the Philadelphia 76ers beat Chicago 131-104, only the third loss in 12 games for the Bulls.

For the 76ers, it was the most points they've scored this season, and they held Michael Jordan, averaging 33.6 points, to 16, matching his season low.

The 76ers held an 84-75 lead with 5:31 to go in the third period before scoring 10 straight points, with Barkley contributing seven and two steals. A 3-point shot by Mike Gminski with 1:36 left in the quarter gave Philadelphia a 100-77 advantage.

Ron Anderson added 19 points and Rick Mahorn 18 for Philadelphia. For the Bulls, rookie B.J. Armstrong, scored a season-high 20 points.

**Knicks 94, Nets 85**  
Trent Tucker scored all 12 of his points in the fourth quarter, rallying New York over New Jersey.

The Knicks, the only NBA team that is unbeaten at home, extended their longest winning streak of the season to six games and their record at Madison Square Garden to 11-0. The Nets have lost 15 of their last 19.

Patrick Ewing topped the Knicks with 22 points, 16 in the second half. Roy Hinson and Chris Morris scored 22 points apiece for the Nets, while Dennis Hopson added 21.

Tucker hit the first of his two 3-pointers of the fourth quarter at the 6:35 mark, giving the Knicks a 76-75 edge, their first lead since the opening period. The Knicks never trailed after that, eventually opening a 94-81 bulge with a 16-4 streak.



Suns' Kevin Johnson has the ball knocked out of his hand.

**Pistons 106, Magic 100**  
Isiah Thomas scored 21 points and Dennis Rodman led a key 9-2 run in the fourth quarter with four as Detroit beat Orlando.

Aguirre scored 11 of his 13 points in the third quarter and Thomas had 10 as the Pistons built a 74-68 lead entering the final period.

William Bedford and Vinnie Johnson opened the fourth quarter by hitting short jumpers for a 78-68 Detroit lead. After Jeff Turner scored for Orlando, Rodman got the next four points and John Salley added a free throw to make it 83-70 with 9:29 left in the game.

The Magic, who got 30 points

from Reggie Theus and 24 from Otis Smith, got no closer than five after that.

**Nuggets 135, Heat 104**  
Michael Adams hit three of his four 3-point baskets and scored 14 of his 21 points during a four-minute span, sparking a 43-point third quarter that lifted Denver over Miami.

The Nuggets led 64-52 early in the second half, then scored nine straight points, five by Adams, whose first points of the half came on two free throws 1:07 after intermission.

An 8-1 Denver run a few minutes later featured six points by Adams, putting the Nuggets up 88-61.

The Nuggets took a 107-72 advantage with 54 seconds left in the period on the strength of a 12-3 run that saw Tim Kempton and Walter Davis each score six points. Davis finished with 20 and Miami was led by Jon Sundvold with 15.

**Suns 104, Clippers 100**  
Jeff Hornacek scored 11 of his season-high 28 points in the fourth period as the Phoenix Suns avoided a late collapse to beat Los Angeles 104-100 last night, keeping the Clippers winless on the road this season.

Los Angeles, now 0-10 on the road, trailed 26-22 after the first quarter, 49-40 at the half and 76-67 after three periods.

Hornacek, who finished with 10 field goals in 14 attempts, scored the first six points of the fourth quarter and Kevin Johnson's three-point play gave the Suns their biggest lead at 89-74 with 7:24 remaining.

Charles Smith had nine points, including a 3-point goal with two seconds left, as Los Angeles rallied to close the gap to 103-100.

Tom Chambers, who had 23 points, hit a free throw with one second showing to give Phoenix its seventh straight home victory over the Clippers since December 1988.

**Pacers 98, Supersonics 95**  
Detlef Schrempf scored six of Indiana's final nine points last night and the Pacers held on for a 98-95 victory over Seattle that snapped the Supersonics' eight-game home winning streak.

Schrempf, who scored 23 points, made two free throws for a 97-89 Indiana lead with three minutes left. Seattle closed to 97-95 on two free throws by Ellis and

baskets by Derrick McKey and Nate McMillan.

Reggie Miller led Indiana with 29 points, 15 in the third quarter when the Pacers took the lead for good. Xavier McDaniel led Seattle with 29 points and McKey added 23.

## Results

Detroit	106	Orlando	100
Denver	135	Miami	104
New York	94	New Jersey	85
Philadelphia	131	Chicago	104
Milwaukee	94	Minnesota	90
Dallas	102	Sacramento	95
San Antonio	115	Utah	98
Phoenix	104	L.A. Clippers	100
Indiana	98	Seattle	95

## Standing

Standing of National Basketball Association teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games back. No games are scheduled for Sunday).

Eastern Conference			
Atlantic Division			
New York	17	708	—
Philadelphia	14	583	3
Boston	14	560	3-1/2
Washington	12	480	5-1/2
New Jersey	7	280	10-1/2
Miami	7	269	10-1/2
Central Division			
Chicago	16	640	—
Atlanta	15	625	1/2
Indiana	15	625	1/2
Detroit	16	615	1/2
Milwaukee	12	480	5-1/2
Cleveland	10	435	8-1/2
Orlando	9	346	7-1/2
Western Conference			
Midwest Division			
San Antonio	17	679	—
Portland	17	654	1-1/2
Utah	16	640	2
Dallas	13	520	5
Houston	12	462	6-1/2
Minnesota	5	200	13
Charlotte	4	174	13
Pacific Division			
L.A. Lakers	19	670	—
Portland	18	662	1-1/2
Seattle	12	500	6-1/2
Phoenix	10	455	7-1/2
Golden State	10	447	8-1/2
L.A. Clippers	9	431	9
Sacramento Kings	6	250	12-1/2



## Whitbread race

French yacht Esprit de Liberte, skippered by Patrick Tabarly, leaves Fremantle on Saturday at the start of the third leg which will take them to Auckland, New Zealand, in the Whitbread Round the World Race. (Reuters wirephoto)

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Dec. 24, (Reuters) Results in the third Asia Cup men's hockey championship, today: India beat Bangladesh 6-0 (halftime 3-0). Scorers: Edgar Mascarenhas (6th minute), Pargat Singh (12th, 58th), Jagdev Singh (35th), Jude Felix (47th), Dhanraj Pillai (62nd). South Korea beat China 4-1 (halftime 2-0). Scorers: South Korea — Yun Jung-Hwan (22nd, 35th), Park Shin-Hyun (50th), Hwang Seon-Jong (52nd), China — Wang Yang (68th minute).

## Welsh runner

CARDIFF, Dec. 24, (UPI): Long distance runner Susan Tooby yesterday withdrew from the Welsh Commonwealth Games team because of trouble with a stress fracture in her foot. Tooby has been dogged by injury since placing 12th in last year's Seoul Olympic marathon.

## Top player

PARIS, Dec. 24, (UPI): Marseille striker Jean-Pierre Papin has been voted French soccer Player of the Year in a survey of fans sponsored by the sports Daily l'Equipe.

## England winger

LONDON, Dec. 24, (UPI): English soccer club Sheffield Wednesday has obtained former England under-21 winger Franz Carr on a three month loan deal from Nottingham Forest.

## Czech chairman

VIENNA, Dec. 24, (UPI): Czechoslovakian Olympic Committee chairman, Jindrich Podanik, stepped down from power Friday and urged other members to follow suit, in response to the political changes sweeping the country, an Austrian newspaper reported yesterday.

## Austrian swimmer

VIENNA, Dec. 24, (UPI): Austrian swimmer Ursula Hopfgartner, who tested positive for banned drugs last July, will be back with the national team January after the Austrian Swimming Federation lifted her one-year suspension, a federation spokesman said.

## Top athlete

SOFIA, Dec. 24, (UPI): Romanian middle-distance runner Paula Ivan has been voted Balkan Sportswoman of the Year by sports journalists of the Balkan countries. BTA, the official Bulgarian news agency, announced yesterday.

## Soccer manager

VIENNA, Dec. 24, (UPI): Austrian soccer team manager Josef Hickersberger, back from Italy's scoreless home draw against Argentina in an international friendly Thursday, said his team has a good chance of earning a point when it faces the World Soccer Cup host nation next summer.



## Paris-Dakar race

Passers-by look at the cars which will compete in the Paris-Dakar Rally in front of the Arche de la Defense in Paris. The race will start today in Paris and finish in Dakar, Senegal, on January 16. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Guimaraes lead League as all rivals draw

LISBON, Dec. 24, (Reuters): Unfashionable Guimaraes headed the Portuguese soccer First Division yesterday with a 2-0 home victory while three of their more illustrious rivals — Porto, Benfica and Sporting — all drew.

Goals struck from 20 metres by Brazilian striker Chiquinho and Soeiro gave Guimaraes both points against Beira Mar. The northern club, managed this season by Brazilian Paulo Autuori, lead the table with 23 points from 14 games.

Porto follow with 22, Benfica on 21 and Sporting with 19, all three having a match in hand on the leaders.

Belgian international Stefan Demol put Porto ahead against Estrela da Amadora with a 40th minute penalty. Duilio Junior, another Brazilian import, equalised in the 70th minute, also from the penalty spot.

Champions Benfica came within eight minutes of defeat at mid-table Tirsense, who played the last 30 minutes with 10 men after the expulsion of defender Jose Maria. Striker Cesar Brito saved Benfica's blushes, cancelling out Sergio Abreu's first-half score.

## HWCA outlast NCCC

HWCA (Hyderabad Welfare Cricket Association), a newly formed cricket team under the chairmanship of Mohammed Khan, achieved their first victory at Jubilee Aishiyah ground when they beat NCCC by 22 runs on Friday.

After winning the toss, NCCC invited HWCA to bat first. Captain Shahid Mirza and Safdar Manju opened the innings for HWCA. In the second over of the innings Shahid was bowled by J. Ranjeet. Ifikhar joined Manju and they steadied the innings with a brilliant partnership of 55 runs in 9 overs.

At the score of 65 runs, Ifikhar was bowled by Peres for a useful knock of 23 runs. Safdar continued his aggressive stroke play and along with Khorram took the score to 135.

Eventually Safdar was bowled by Ravi after a glorious knock of 92, studded with 13 boundaries. Khorram, Ameer Khan, Siddique and Kareem (11 not out) contributed useful runs to take the HWCA total to 169 in the allotted 30 overs.

For NCCC Ravi, Peres and Ranjeet took 3, 22 and one wicket respectively.

In reply, NCCC were all out for 147 in 27.2 overs. The highlights of the NCCC innings was a superb 59 by Noel and useful contributions by Ranjeet (28), and Peres (23). Peres was brilliantly run out by Murtuza Qadri.

Siddique and Shahid bowled marvellously for HWCA taking 2 wickets each. They were well supported by Jameel and Khorram who took 1 wicket each. The HWCA bowlers were also magnificently supported by their wicket keeper Abdul Kareem who took some brilliant catches behind the wicket.

The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere. Manju was declared the Man of the Match. The trophy was given away by chief Zaeeruddin Khan.

## Sami memorial

SKYLARK meet Bombay Youth Cricket Club in the final of the Haji Mohammed Sami Khan Memorial Cricket Tournament at the Salmiya Cricket Ground on Friday.

Tournament secretary Mohammed Hasib Khan also announced that the match would start at 9.00 am and that the closing ceremony of the event would be held at 1.30 pm.

The Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistan embassy Syed Akbar Afridi will guest the event and distribute the prizes. They will be a special award for Man of the Match, donated by Al Manea Container service.

## New Pak, Evergreen, DHL win

NEW PAK crushed Gold Star by six wickets in a Pakistan Trophy cricket tournament match at the N.C. ground in Sabah Salem on Friday.

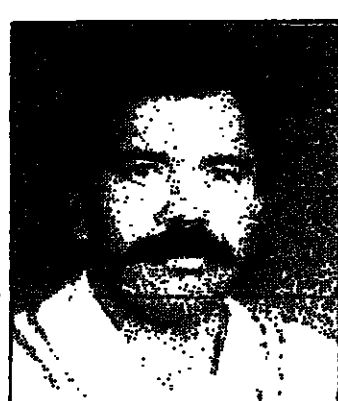
Gold Star batted first and scored 157 runs in 23 overs. Saleem was the top-scorer. He played well to score 67 runs with 4-fours. Shahid with 21 runs was the only batsmen who could get into double figures.

For New Pak, Mohammed Ali and Mubasher were the most successful bowlers with three wickets each. Sakawat Ali and Tahir took wickets each.

In reply, New Pak opened their innings through Pervaz and Mubasher. When the first wicket partnership reached 20 Pervaz was bowled by Ifikhar for five runs. Ajmal then joined opening batsmen Mubasher who was batting well.

Both the batsmen produced one of the most classic innings of the tournament, hammering all the bowlers at will and tremendous power all round the wicket, closing in on the target with every over.

Mubasher was first to go when he was bowled by Waheed for 40 runs with 4-fours. Skipper Mohammed Ali joined Ajmal, who was in excellent form. Both the batsmen produced one of their best innings. The ease and confidence they showed during their stay at the wicket and the shots they played were a treat to watch.



Mohammed Ali

Ajmal was out, brilliantly caught and bowled by Nadeem, for 55 runs which were studded with six, four, Mohammed Ali remained not out with two fours and three mighty sixes.

For Gold Star, Nadeem took two wickets while Waheed and Ifikhar got one wicket each.

Evergreen registered their fourth win in as many outings in the Hubara Thursday League at the KOC Ground, Ahmadi, and this time the victims were Lanka Lions who were brushed aside by nine wickets.

While batting first, Lanka Lions were bundled-out for just 102 runs with 17 runs. For Evergreen, Arshad Pindival and Amjad Malik spearheaded the onslaught



Ajmal: 55 runs

by claiming three wickets each after giving away 14 and 18 runs respectively.

The spin duo of Jamil and Shehzad shared remaining four wickets between them. Requiring only 4.25 runs per over, Evergreen opened their innings through Amjad Malik and Shahbaz and both were in excellent form.

Amjad Malik cracked four boundaries to reach 37 before being lbw to Dhammika. His fellow opener Shahbaz had to retire-hurt, also for 37 runs.

Waqar Zaidi (18) and Sadaqat completed the formality of getting the remaining runs to surpass Lanka Lions score in just 17.1 overs with nine wickets in hand. By virtue of four wins and four bonus

points Evergreen has now full possible 20 points.

DHL recorded their fourth consecutive victory in a row in the Bombay Youth Cricket Tournament by crushing Kokan Cricket Club by 4 wickets at the Kuna ground on Friday.

KCC after winning the toss elected to bat. KCC suffered their first blow in 2nd over when Tariq uprooted Zakaria's stump with the total just 7 runs. Skipper Javed Kaloo, joined Majeed and both the batsmen rescued their team with excellent batting and scored 71 runs for the 2nd wicket. Javed was run out at 35. Majeed with 42, Abrar 32 and Iqbal 16 helped Kokan to 140 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in the 25 allotted overs.

For DHL, Ashfaq Sr grabbed 2 wks, while Tariq, Sandeep and Peter claimed one each.

In reply, Ashfaq and Rodney put on 32 for the first wicket, as Rodney was first to go at 10. DHL soon collapsed losing the top-order batsmen. Sundeeep was stumped at 10. Sethy and Ashfaq Sr were both run out for 2 and 4, respectively.

DHL were in trouble when Ashfaq scored 43. James then played a captain's innings. Rony Sr scored 27 quick runs, James remained unbeaten on 34 and finished off (145) the innings in 24.2 overs for the loss of six wickets. For Kokan, Kasim, Abrar, Aslam and Rafique had a scalp each.

## Liverpool face Wednesday on Boxing Day

LONDON, Dec. 24, (UPI): England's soccer players will get a chance to run off their Christmas Turkey Tuesday with the traditional Boxing Day full league programme.

And Liverpool, the team which has dominated the headlines all year, both on and off the field, will be keen to avoid a repetition of their form which cost its chance of spending Christmas at the top of the League tree when it drew 0-0 with Manchester United yesterday.

Arsenal, thanks to Liverpool's slip-up, was the Christmas League leader with 36 points from 18 games, one ahead of Liverpool, which has played a game more, and five up on Aston Villa and Norwich.

## Struggling

Liverpool was expected to take over at the top with a victory against struggling Manchester United. But its old rivals shook off its recent poor run and was unlucky not to win.

Ron Atkinson's Sheffield Wednesday is the Boxing Day visitor to Anfield, arriving with a very rare opportunity to record a season double over Liverpool.

Then bottom of the table, Wednesday inflicted a 2-0 defeat on Liverpool last month on the FA Cup holder's first return to the scene of the Hillsborough

tragedy. Sheffield has since moved out of the relegation zone, now lying fourth bottom with 20 points from 19 games.

Arsenal visits sixth place Southampton hoping to keep its nose in front in one of the most open championships in years. Finishing the year atop the table is a major moral booster and Arsenal will be keen to build on the win at Glasgow Rangers midweek which gave it the unofficial title, British champion.

But while the London side has been invincible at home this season, its away form has given supporters some sleepless nights, with half its eight trips ending in defeat.

Southampton has won just half of its home games, so a draw seems a probable result.

Liverpool's game kicks off two hours later so if Arsenal fails to win, Liverpool's players will run out knowing a victory will put them back at the top.

One of the day's most interesting games sees Aston Villa, which has finished both top and bottom of the table in the 1980s host yesterday's heroes Manchester United.

It has been a troubled year for United with strife on and off the field and manager Alex Ferguson's job has been on the line,

according to press reports. "They looked a useful side again," former Liverpool star Tommy Smith said after yesterday's game. And United's fanatical supporters will be hoping getting the better of a draw at Anfield could be the start of better things to come.

The festive soccer programme sees three London derbies with Tottenham hosting Millwall, Charlton making the trip to Wimbledon and Chelsea visiting Crystal Palace.

## Dropped

After a poor start, Tottenham has moved quietly up to fifth place, eight points behind arch-rival Arsenal. Millwall in contrast, began well but has dropped like a stone and is now just two points above the relegation zone.

Chelsea headed the table last month but has developed an alarmingly leaky defense, suffering home hammerings by Wimbledon and Liverpool. Palace underwent the horror of losing 9-0 at Anfield in the season's early days but is now heading for mid-table respectability.

In other action, Derby hosts Everton, Nottingham Forest travels to Luton, bottom club Manchester City entertains Norwich and Queens Park Rangers meets Coventry.



Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish and daughter Lauren get ready for Christmas.

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